

House Buyers' Bill would stimulate competition and 'blow away cobwebs'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The reason for the House Buyers' Bill, which would end the solicitors' monopoly in the conveyancing of registered domestic property, was described graphically yesterday by Mr David Trench, the Consumers' Association legal officer, who has been closely involved in its drafting.

"A blast or, failing that, a white of competition from outside the legal profession is needed to blow away the cobwebs that bedevil the business of buying houses," he said.

The number of people owning their own houses has increased from 10 per cent in 1920 to about 60 per cent now, but the Consumers' Association says the present system is designed for a time when only a small percentage of the population owned houses.

"Solicitors are still using quill pen procedures in the age of the computer," Mr Trench commented.

The Bill aims to speed up, and to make cheaper and more efficient, the system of buying and selling houses, by stimulating competition among professionals and non-professionals concerned with house transfer, and by encouraging greater use of computers.

Its main provision is to remove the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing of registered houses, which is estimated to amount to about half conveyancing work.

Building societies and banks would be allowed to do conveyancing work in competition with solicitors, and non-solicitors could be conveyancers, provided they hold a licence.

Licensing would depend on proof of financial probity, and adequate insurance cover to protect consumers in cases of negligence, while additional safeguards, such as a compensation

fund or special fidelity type insurance, would be needed by conveyancers wishing to handle clients' money.

The Bill would also allow Solicitors to advertise their conveyancing services.

Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP who is introducing the Bill, said it was common sense and straightforward measure designed to serve the consumer by making property sales more efficient, quicker and cheaper.

Mr Bowen Wells, Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford, one of the Bill's main sponsors, said: "At the moment we are faced with gawping and house-buying daisy chains which, if you break any one link a whole set of operations falls through. It has become an unethical mess."

Another sponsor, Mr Ken Weich, Labour MP for Ipswich, said: "If there is any branch of public life where some long-needed competition is overdue, it is the conveyancing of property. There is enormous opposition to this from vested interests behind the scenes but we are absolutely confident that the important people are on our side - the consumers."

Mr Trench said of the conveyancing process: "We would not say it is simple but it is not essentially legal. I think solicitors have much to offer in the new system. I do not envisage that solicitors will stop doing conveyancing."

The Bill is intended to encourage local authorities to computerize their local land charges registers and indexes. The sponsors claim this could cut the time for searches from 10 weeks to 10 minutes.

To speed up searches, sanctions would be introduced, such as the refunding of part of all of the search fee, for failure by the local authority to provide details within 14 days. Cutting delays would reduce the chances of gawping and chains of interlocked transactions.

The Bill also aims to simplify the survey system by encouraging "sellors' surveys" - a structural survey commissioned by the vendor, on which the buyer could depend by making the surveyor liable to the buyer.

Building societies could be required to consider a vendor's survey as a valuation report for a mortgage, so that the number of surveys on a property could be reduced.

The Law Society replies that the main criticisms of the present system are delays and expense.

The Law Society believes delay is caused by many factors, including the buyer's needs and the time taken for searches, but rarely by a dilatory solicitor "because of the pressures brought to bear on him not only by his own client but by the other parties' solicitors."

On expense, the Law Society quotes the Royal Commission on Legal Services as saying that conveyancing charges were not excessive. It says a survey shows the cost of conveyancing in Britain compares well with that in many other Western countries. In addition, solicitors are being encouraged to give detailed written estimates so that clients can "shop around."

The Law Society's main defence for the present system is the protection of the public.

Mr Tony Holland, the Law Society's spokesman on the Bill, said no test of competence, training or qualification was laid down for the licensed conveyancer.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors said the Bill failed in its main aim of speeding up the process.

Leading article, page 15



Police removing Greenham Common protesters who occupied the reception area of the Ministry of Defence in London yesterday. Twenty women had sought a meeting with Mr Heseltine after invading the building.

TV ban on CND advertising

By David Hewson

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been banned from advertising its magazine on television to coincide with Saturday's showing of the nuclear war film, *The Day After*.

Mr Will Howard, CND's advertising coordinator, said yesterday that the organization had submitted scripts for two television advertisements, one promoting its magazine, *Sanity*, and the other saying that more facts and information about nuclear weapons could be obtained from CND.

Mr Howard said that he knew that CND would not be allowed to advertise directly for members on television, but he could not understand why their scripts were banned when ones for magazines about war were allowed.

The advertisement was blocked by the Independent Television Contractors Association, which vets advertising before it is scrutinized by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Mr John Jackson, the association's head of copy clearance, said last night: "The Broadcasting Act itself basically says that no political body can insert an advertisement. Even a non-political body cannot insert an advertisement which shows partiality on a matter of controversy."

I am afraid CND was caught out of these because it is inescapably a body whose objectives are political."

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, watched *The Day After* in his office yesterday before leaving for the Nato meeting in Brussels amid confusion about his attitude towards airtime to give his views on it.

A ministry spokesman said that Mr Heseltine would be discussing the film with the IBA after he returns tomorrow.

Newspapers in anarchy, publishers' chief says

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Fleet Street industrial relations are in a state of anarchy and unions and employers must sit down to sort out their problems if the industry is to avoid "being hied to death," Mr John Le Page, director-general of the Newspaper Publishers Association said yesterday.

Association officials are working on a "lay-off clause" which publishers would invoke to suspend without pay workers affected by unofficial strikes. And a pay offer due to more than 30,000 printworkers in London and Manchester may be reduced by 2 per cent to pay for the £10m losses caused by strikes in support of the National Graphical Association (NGA) dispute with Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah.

Negotiations on the unions' annual wage claim due to start last Friday have been postponed until the present crisis in the industry dies down, but Mr Le Page made clear yesterday that the employers will be seeking radical changes in relationships with the unions as part of a new deal operative from January 1.

"Agreements had to be addressed to otherwise you get anarchy - and we have anarchy in Fleet Street," he told briefing for industrial journalists.

Twelve newspaper companies are suing the NGA for maximum damages permitted under the Employment Act, 1982, for the union members' unlawful industrial action in halting production of national newspapers on November 25 and 26. Writs have been issued for the £3m joint claim and the case is expected to be heard in the new year.

Print workers belonging to Sogat '82 yesterday defied the law by refusing to print the bumper Christmas edition of the *Radio Times*. But the British Printing and Communications Corporation and the BBC which took out the injunction to stop the Sogat members' action, expect the national executive of the union to reverse its instruction to strike at a specially convened meeting today.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the union, will urge his executive to obey the law. The alternative, Mr Keys will say, is to face sequestration of funds as has happened to the National Graphical Association.

IRA rifle used in 22 attacks

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Royal Ulster Constabulary disclosed yesterday that an Armalite rifle found at the scene of an SAS ambush on Sunday had been used in 22 IRA shootings.

Its next intended target had probably been chosen as two Provisional IRA men, Brian Campbell and Colm McGirr drove to the bido where they were to collect two guns. But the terrorists were already being observed by an undercover SAS team near Conlissland.

The soldiers had been living rough, waiting to challenge the terrorists. The two men died at the side of the narrow lane after failing to respond to a challenge shouted by the soldiers.

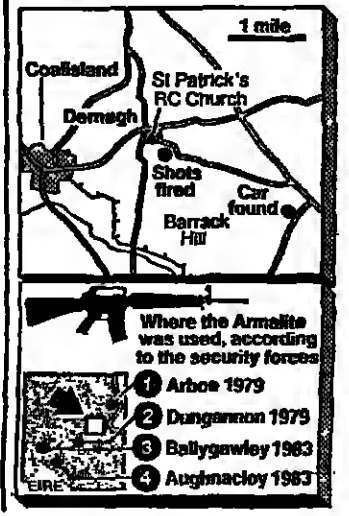
A third man, known to the police, fled along the maze of winding country lanes that criss-cross this republican area of east Tyrone. He abandoned the car three miles away. The vehicle was later put on show by police.

Police were searching yesterday for the missing man, who they believe has either found a safe house, or will attempt to cross the border into the republic to receive hospital treatment.

The Armalite rifle had been used in 22 shooting incidents since 1977, according to the police. Ballistic tests showed that in June, 1979, it was used to kill John Scott, a reserve Constable at Arboe and four months later, was used to murder Frederick Irwin, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, at Dungannon. This year, it was used to kill two more part-time members of the UDR when terrorists shot Cecil McNeill at Ballyvaughy in February, and in October, murdered Cyrus Campbell, near his farm at Aghnacloy.

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Security advisory council urged

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government is urged today by the Adam Smith Institute to set up a national security council to advise the Prime Minister and her Cabinet on foreign affairs and to break the monopoly enjoyed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

That would help to avoid blunders like those over the invasion of the Falkland Islands and Grenada, the institute says.

The council should be a separate Whitehall department with access to diplomatic sources and military intelligence and come under the direct control of Downing Street.

It would be a logical development of the trend which has led to a Cabinet committee secretariat and foreign policy advisers at Number 10, the institute says.

As a number of these are career diplomats anyway, a security council, which would differ from its namesake in Washington, would allow the Government for the first time to hear an alternative view to that of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The institute's report on foreign policy is part of its Omega Project, under which more than hundred scholars have been examining every kind of government activity for more than a year.

Omega Project Foreign Report (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ; £5)

'Mandarin politics'

An idea for top-level civil servants to participate openly in politics has been put to the Whitehall "mandarins" union, the First Division Association (Our Labour Editor writes).

Mr Norman Strauss, until recently a senior figure in the "think tank", suggested to the TUC-affiliated union that it should advise political parties "in the manner of management consultants" and write its own Green Papers on Government policy.

The suggestion was revealed in the internally-circulated *FD News*, which gives a full report of talks between Mr Strauss and his former chief, Sir John Hoskyns, who resigned as head of the No 10 policy unit.

Cash gifts to Tory funds compared with awards Honours selection questioned

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, will display in the Commons today under the 10 minute rule, data unearthed by the Labour Research Department (LRD) which points to what it calls "a remarkable correlation between firm's donations to Tory funds and the award of honours to company directors."

Of 41 directors of private companies awarded peerages or knighthoods by Mrs Margaret Thatcher since 1979, 28 of them, LRD claims, came from companies which have contributed £2,756,366 to the Conservative Party in the past four years, about 34 per cent of donations traced by the department's investigation of 2,000 sets of company accounts.

The LRD, a body funded by 50 national trades unions, in its December issue of its publication *Labour Research*, detects an honours bias in favour of companies which contribute to Conservative Party finances.

Mr John Walker, editor of *Labour Research*, writes that: "Although only 41 per cent of the top 100 British industrial companies gave money to Tory funds and only 15 per cent of the top 2,000, 78 per cent of the companies associated with men who have received honours have given money over the last four years."

Mr Walker identifies 18 companies which have given £90,000 or more to the Conservative Party since 1979: "Fourteen of them, more than three-quarters, have had one of their directors honoured by the Thatcher Government."

"The total value of the donations of the 14 firms since 1979 has been £1,859,756 - or 23 per cent of the income we record the Tories has having received."

LRD estimates that companies "dominating" Conservative fund raising have received honours at twice the rate of companies which dominate the economy.

"Peerages have gone to members of the boards of five of the top eighteen Tory donating firms, but to only one of the top eighteen United Kingdom industrial companies, as identified by The Time 1,000. Knighthoods have gone to nine of the top eighteen donating companies, but to only six of the top eighteen industrial companies."

Mr Walker compiled his data by monitoring the eight New Year or Birthday honours lists published since Mrs Thatcher took office. Information on the political contributions of companies was available under section 19 of the Companies Act, 1967.

It was disclosed in *The Times* on Saturday that the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, founded in the 1920s to prevent a repeat of the sale of titles associated with Lloyd George, had asked Mrs Thatcher to tighten up their vetting procedures and that she had agreed.

Since 1980, the names of individuals proposed for honours whose companies had contributed to any political party either in cash or kind, whether their honour was of political services or not, must pass through the committee's hands.

As a result, Lord Shackleton, Lord Franks and Lord Carr of Hadley, the privy councillors who comprise the committee, receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister or the Chief Whip, stating the reason for the nomination and describing donations to political parties.

BARONS						
Name	Company	Date of Enfranchisement	Donations in 1979/82 (£)	Company Donations in 1979/82 (£)	Total Donations in 1979/82 (£)	
Sir William Ceyzer	British and Commonwealth Shipping	Jan 82	95,100	218,581		
Sir Robert McAlpine	Newcastle	Jan 80	33,100	120,000		
Sir Charles Firth	Trifolgar House	Jan 82	12,000	96,000		
Sir Marcus Siffert	Marlborough	Jan 80	20,300	298,500		
Sir John Gollan	Marlborough	Jan 83	42,000	80,000		
Sir Arnold Weinstock	GCE	June 80	30,000	30,000		
Sir John King	Blackrock International	June 83	7,500	32,500		
			284,210	816,581		

1. Creation was for Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd, Newcastle its parent company. 2. Includes donations to British (United) Industrialists. 3. Accounts for 1980-82. 4. Latest figure available. 5. Also donor of British Airways.

KNIGHTS						
Name	Company	Date of Enfranchisement	Donations in 1979/82 (£)	Company Donations in 1979/82 (£)	Total Donations in 1979/82 (£)	
Keith Showery	Allied-Lyons	June 81	71,300	228,000		
Douglas Harrison	Recal	June 81	30,000	123,000		
Robert Matthews	NEJ	June 81	45,000	112,000		
Austin Bole	Waco	Jan 80	25,000	105,000		
Richard Smith	Grampy	Jan 81	25,000	102,175		
Geoffrey Wilkins	Forestry Ministry	Jan 80	20,000	80,000		
James Chapman	Richard & Colvins	Jan 82	20,000	80,000		
Christopher Liddell	British Bru	Jan 82	11,000	49,250		
Trevor Holdsworth	GNK	Jan 80	50,000	50,000		
Robert Clayton	GCE	Jan 80	50,000	50,000		
Alan Searcy	Halsbury Industries	Jan 81	0	26,400		
Eric Searcy	Smiths Industries	Jan 80	6,600	26,400		
Owen Alister	Marley	June 81	0	23,000		
Chris Searcy	Westland	June 81	0	17,900		
James Duncan	Transport Devt Group	June 81	4,500	21,000		
Lawrence Burrill	Barratt Devel	Jan 82	0	10,000		
Peter Macdonald	SAT	Jan 81	2,100	7,000		
Eric Weston	Social Research	Jan 81	7,500	7,000		
Alan Smith	Divison	Jan 81	1,500	6,300		
Joseph Nickerson	International	June 82	0	1,100		
William Shephard	Blackwood Hoops	June 82	0	0		
Eric Weston	Caldermill Aviston	Jan 83	0	0		
Eric Weston	Forestry Ministry	Jan 80	0	0		
Maxwell Joseph	Grand Met	Jan 81	0	0		
Christopher Liddell	ICI	Jan 82	0	0		
Norman Macfarlane	Macfarlane Group	Jan 82	0	0		
Ronald Owen	Prudential Ass	June 80	0	0		
Alister Frame	RTI	Jan 81	0	0		
John Sainsbury	J. Sainsbury	Jan 80	0	0		
Peter Macdonald	Shell T & T	June 81	0	0		
Leslie Porter	Shell T & T	Jan 80	0	0		
Leslie Porter	Tesco	June 83	0	0		
Patrick Manney	Thomas Tilling	Jan 81	0	0		
			342,580	1,185,685		

1. Now dead. 2. Donations mainly to British United Industrialists. 3. Latest figure available. 4. Also donor of United Electric, total donations 1979-82: £124,000. 5. Also director of Royal Insurance. 6. Donations 1979-82: £120,500. 0. Donations were made by Matthews before he became a director. 7. Also a director of M&P, total donations 1979-82: £12,500. 8. Also a director of Commercial Union, total donations 1979-82: £10,000. 9. Also a director of Pirelli, total donations 1979-82: £2,000. 10. Also a director of Rank Organisation, total donations 1979-82: £144,000.

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Kasparov moves into winning position

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The sixth game in the Korchnoi-Kasparov match of the Acorn Computers World Championship semi-finals in London on Sunday was adjourned on the 41st move, with Kasparov seemingly in a winning position.

The game started quietly, with Kasparov playing the Tarrasch defence to the Queen's Gambit.

But, instead of increasing the pressure on the Queen's side where he had some advantage, Korchnoi played to win a pawn on the other wing.

His young opponent took

WORLD CHESS

Sixth game
White: Korchnoi, Black: Kasparov

1. P4-D4	1. P4-D4	1. P4-D4	1. P4-D4
2. P4-D4	2. P4-D4	2. P4-D4	2. P4-D4
3. P4-D4	3. P4-D4	3. P4-D4	3. P4-D4
4. P4-D4	4. P4-D4	4. P4-D4	4. P4-D4
5. P4-D4	5. P4-D4	5. P4-D4	5. P4-D4
6. P4-D4	6. P4-D4	6. P4-D4	6. P4-D4
7. P4-D4	7. P4-D4	7. P4-D4	7. P4-D4
8. P4-D4	8. P4-D4	8. P4-D4	8. P4-D4
9. P4-D4	9. P4-D4	9. P4-D4	9. P4-D4
10. P4-D4	10. P4-D4	10. P4-D4	10. P4-D4
11. P4-D4	11. P4-D4	11. P4-D4	11. P4-D4
12. P4-D4	12. P4-D4	12. P4-D4	12. P4-D4
13. P4-D4	13. P4-D4	13. P4-D4	13. P4-D4
14. P4-D4	14. P4-D4	14. P4-D4	14. P4-D4
15. P4-D4	15. P4-D4	15. P4-D4	15. P4-D4
16. P4-D4	16. P4-D4	16. P4-D4	16. P4-D4
17. P4-D4	17. P4-D4	17. P4-D4	17. P4-D4
18. P4-D4	18. P4-D4	18. P4-D4	18. P4-D4
19. P4-D4	19. P4-D4	19. P4-D4	19. P4-D4
20. P4-D4	20. P4-D4	20. P4-D4	20. P4-D4
21. P4-D4	21. P4-D4	21. P4-D4	21. P4-D4
22. P4-D4	22. P4-D4	22. P4-D4	22. P4-D4

Adjusted.

Detective for trial

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

A Sheffield detective sergeant was yesterday committed for trial on 33 charges, some of which alleged conspiracy and corruption. The case concerns in part the disappearance of steel valued at £2m.

It was also alleged that Sergeant William Kelsey, aged 62, conspired with others to stage a mock burglary at the premises of Napier Steels Ltd., to steal valuable metals from the firm and to commit arson at the Montessori school in Sheffield.

He said that patients who died ignored his warning to take tablets by mouth.

Sale room

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Prices soared beyond expectations when Sotheby's offered French eighteenth century furnishings for sale in Monte Carlo on Sunday. It was the kind of furniture one lives with rather than puts in museums. Most of the bidding came from private collectors connected to the sale room by telephone.

A lacquer commode by Weisweiler went to one of them and brought the top price at 3,330,000 French francs (estimate two million francs) or £277,500. It has panels of seventeenth century Japanese lacquer ornamented with vases of flowers while the Neo-Classical ornate mounts are simple and restrained.

A big seven dinner service, including 589 pieces made between 1753 and 1790, painted with sprigs of flowers within blue and gold borders, was bid

Big prices for French furnishings

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

to 1,054,500 francs (estimate 350,000 to 450,000 francs) or £87,875 to another collector.

A sale was devoted to furniture from a charming eighteenth century villa outside Aix-en-Provence, the Pavillon de Bidaine. The traditional good taste with which the collection had been formed in the 1930s inspired bidders with enthusiasm. They did not leave a lot unsold.

The collection was sent for sale from the estate of the late M Hubert de Saint-Senoeh and totalled £1,597,188. A pair of handsome Regence marquetry bookshelves with armchair mounts and a grill over the doors soared to 2,109,000 francs or £175,750 leaving the auctioneer's estimate of 300,000 francs far behind.

A pair of four leaf screens mounted with Savonnerie tap-

Canadians will welcome bishop after all

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A new invitation has been issued to the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, to visit Canada, thereby ending an embarrassing episode.

The invitation was given in person yesterday by the Primate of Canada, the Most Rev Edward Scott, who is in London on church business. Archbishop Scott wrote earlier to withdraw an invitation to the bishop, leading to speculation that he was persona non grata in Canada because of his opposition to the ordination of women.

Archbishop Scott has now explained that the earlier invitation contravened a rule that bishops from other parts of the Anglican Communion should be invited only in the name of all the Canadian bishops.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Drivers told to avoid all alcohol in tough Christmas campaign

By Staff Reporters

Drivers are to be advised not to drink any alcohol this Christmas and New Year as part of a tough campaign launched by the Department of Transport yesterday.

Under the theme "Never drive and drink. You are asking to get caught," the department aired for the first time last night two 10-second television commercials highlighting the sufferings of victims of drinking and driving accidents - as well as the stiff penalties imposed on the drivers.

The Department of Transport says that about 30,000 people are killed or injured each year in accidents in which one person involved is above the legal alcohol limit. Last year, in England and Wales nearly 73,000 people were convicted of drink-driving offences.

Police strategies

The following police forces have announced their Christmas plans: **Cambridgeshire:** A play dramatizing the dangers of drinking and driving with four colleges, clubs, factories and offices. **Derbyshire:** 20,000 badges with the slogan "I am not drinking because I am driving" will be issued. **Devon and Cornwall:** Fully equipped with portable Alcolimeters and station-based Intoximeters, which it hopes will be a deterrent.

Northumbria: No special plans. **South Yorkshire:** Monitoring accident figures as Christmas approaches, but no special action is planned. **Staffordshire:** Launching campaign today, with advertising, posters, and exhibitions. **Surrey:** Extra patrols between December 17 and January 1. **West Yorkshire:** Radio and television appeals and publicity will be backed up by extra patrols. **Wiltshire:** Police putting their trust in increased vigilance and new electronic equipment.

Those who have made the processing of offenders quicker so that police patrols can now spend more time on the road. The national publicity is being supplemented by local police forces, many of which are staging their own campaigns. Spot-checks by the police will be intensified, particularly during the evening and early morning.

Safety slogans

Staffordshire: "Every breath you take - we'll be watching you". **South Wales:** "Remember, a combination of alcohol, blood and petrol can be a deadly cocktail". **Greater Manchester:** "Leave the driving to public transport, the drinking man's best friend". **Nottinghamshire:** "When I drink I am careless". **Derbyshire:** "I am not drinking because I am driving".



Concert party: Two of the children taking part in the first performance of the Inner London Education Authority's annual Christmas music festival at the Festival Hall, London, yesterday. This year's theme is "It's a Gift" and 12,000 children are expected to attend the performances which continue daily until Thursday. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Broader education urged by report

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Children between the ages of 11 and 16 should receive a broad education balanced between vocational, technical and academic aspects, according to a report published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

The report, the result of a five-year inquiry into how the curriculum was changed in Cheshire, Hampshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Wigan, does not mirror present government policy. It talks about the skills and experiences needed by pupils rather than subjects.

Written by a partnership of the local authorities, schools and a group of school inspectors (HMIs) it says that any curriculum which fails to provide the right balance is to be seriously questioned. "Any measures which restrict the access of all pupils to a wide-ranging curriculum or which focus too narrowly on specific

skills are in direct conflict with the entitlement curriculum envisaged here." It was made clear yesterday that the 90-page report had no policy implications and was not an HMI document. The report, which is a result of the great debate on education triggered by Mr James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister, shows the difficulties faced by teachers in trying to change what is taught in schools.

Dartmoor pledge by the Prince

By Craig Seton

The Prince of Wales, who controls 70,000 acres on Dartmoor, says in a report published today that it should not be preserved "in aspic" merely as a curiosity for future generations nor allowed to be destroyed by rash development.

In a foreword to the Duchy of Cornwall report, the prince, as The Duke of Cornwall, makes clear the difficulties of uniting conflicting interests over the future use of the moor by interested parties, including farmers, Dartmoor people, military, tourists and the conservationists, and says it will not please everybody.

Proposing an "entitlement curriculum" the report says this should include a balanced allocation of time for the eight areas of experience: aesthetic and creative; ethical; mathematical; physical; scientific; social and political; and spiritual. Subjects are not mentioned.

In preparing the report to produce new guidelines on the future use of its land "to ensure its well being as a living community into the twenty-first century", the duchy had discussions with more than fifty organizations and individuals during a three year inquiry. The prince in his foreword said: "We are living through a period of rapid change and heavy pressures which can in no time at all spoil much that we value on Dartmoor. To try to ignore that in an ostrich-like fashion would be to fail to accept that there must be change if the community of Dartmoor is to survive and remain viable in the years to come."

Oliver check

Lord Olivier, aged 76, was in a satisfactory condition at St Thomas's Hospital, London, yesterday where he had been admitted for checks.



Puppet politicians: Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan as they will appear in the series Spitting Image.

Puppet satire for ITV

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

A puppet satire show is to be launched this winter on Independent Television, according to programme schedules announced yesterday. Central Television is making a series of 13 topical comedy shows to be broadcast at 10pm on Sundays from late February in which world politicians will appear as puppet caricatures.

The puppets are based on the work of Roger Law and Peter Fluck, whose caricatures of politicians with exaggerated features and expressions, have been seen in many colour magazines. Mr John Lloyd, the originator of Not The Nine O'Clock News, is to coproduce the show, to be called Spitting Image, which will be recorded five days before transmission to make it as topical as possible.

South-east cable bias criticized

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The geographical bias of the choice of cable television franchises, which appears to be weighed in favour of the Southeast, has been criticized by the consultants CIT Research, advisers to the Government on telecommunications.

Eleven franchises were awarded nearly two weeks ago by the Government from 37 applications. Commenting on the selection, Mr Patrick Whitten, managing director of the research group, said: "With five of the winners in the extended London area, and another within commuting distance of Paddington, a swathe of 70 per cent of English population, including the Southwest, East Anglia East Midlands and the whole of the North and the Northeast has been given only one licence in Merseyside. This will be a big disappointment to the regions involved, particularly as most of the new investment goes to a part of the country that has been spared the worst rigours of the recession."

Scotland has been allocated one in Glasgow (north), but no franchises were awarded to Wales. Since the announcement of the franchises the Government's selection has been criticized as unimaginative. Five of the eleven awards include British Telecom, either as a partner or as the cable provider.

£35m for new trains approved

By a Staff Reporter

The Government has approved a British Rail plan to spend £35m on new passenger trains for Southern and Eastern region commuter services.

The trains, equipped for driver-only operation and with sliding doors, will start to come into service in the next year or so.

The trains are similar to those operating on the Bedford-St Pancras-Moorgate service and commuter services out of Waterloo. Eighty will serve the Royston and Hitchin line from King's Cross and 69 will be used on Southern's central division from Victoria and London Bridge to stations such as Epsom, Sutton and West Croydon.

The trains will be built at British Rail's engineering works in York. The order means that about 2,500 jobs have been safeguarded but 280 jobs will be cut and 900 men will go on short time in the new year until materials for the new contract are delivered.

Damages for breast surgery

Mrs Beverley Rees, aged 32, accepted £3,000 agreed damages yesterday in the High Court after she sued the surgeon who carried out an operation to enlarge her breasts. Dr Michael F. Barrett, director and chairman of the Elstree Nursing Home Ltd, denied that her postoperative treatment was negligent. The court was told that after the operation Mrs Rees, of Ashdown Crescent, Cheshunt, needed further medical attention because of an infection in one breast.

Rare visitor

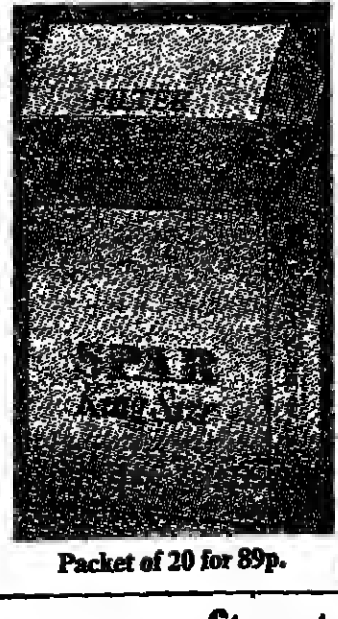
A rare pied wheat ear was seen in Paignton, Devon yesterday 12,000 miles from its winter home in East Africa. Fewer than twenty have been seen in Britain since records began.

Grocery group launches own cigarette

By Kenneth Gosling

A cigarette price war will begin this winter with the introduction of a king-size brand by Spar, the independent grocery group. It will cost 89p for a packet of 20. The group said yesterday that it hoped sales through its 3,200 outlets would quickly overhaul the Victoria Wine's own brand, which sells for 93p.

Spar's managing director, Mr John Itish, said that he expected half the sales of the new cigarettes, which are made in West Germany, would be in packs of 20. Spar's new sales philosophy will emphasize "impulse lines", confectionery, cigarettes and wines and spirits, or what Mr Itish called "emergency supplies". "We are swinging our whole business away from being a grocery-based chain, to being a convenience store chain."



Packet of 20 for 89p.

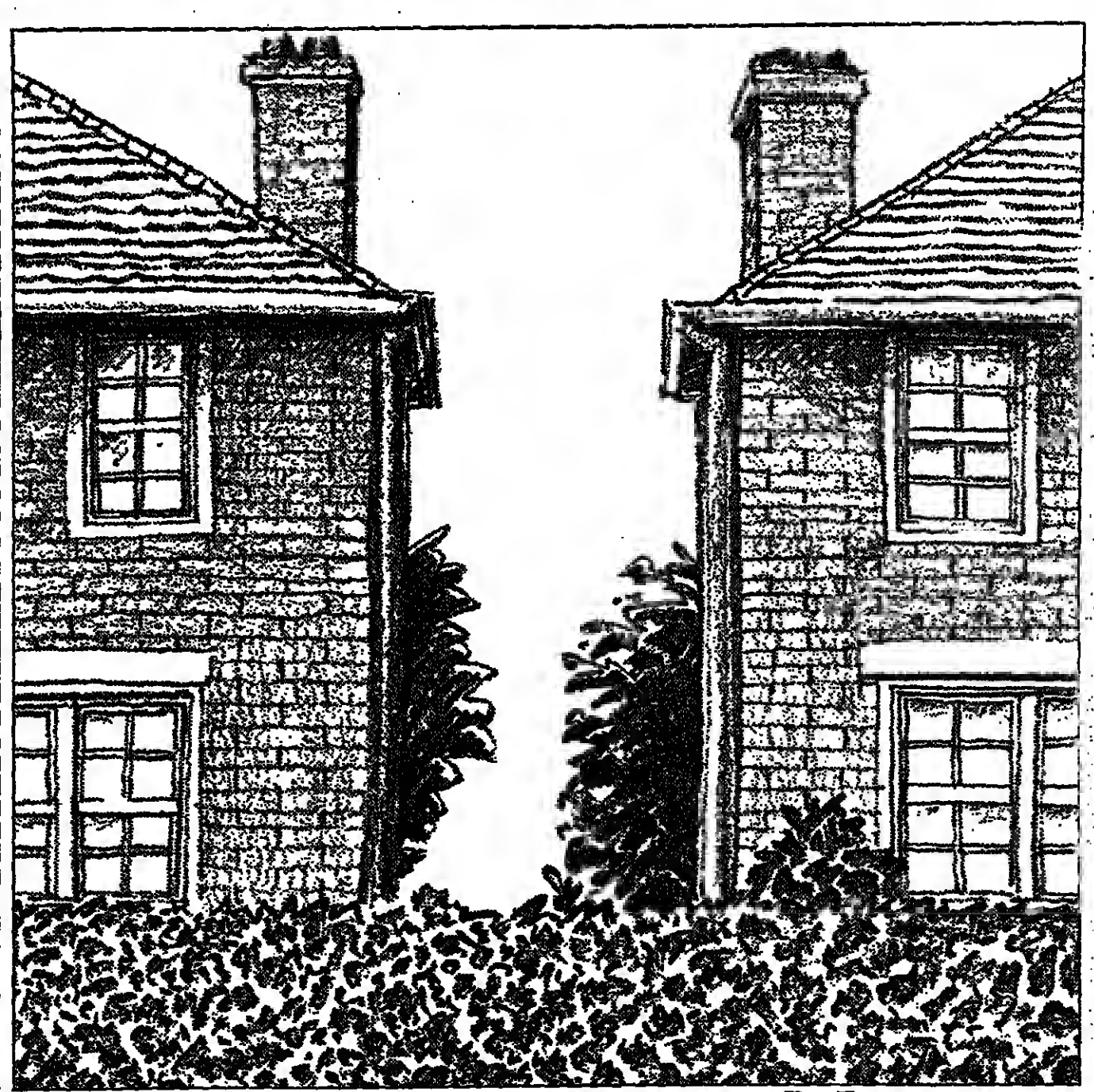
Salesmen lose company cars after tax change

By Jonathan Davies, Financial Correspondent

More than one in ten of Britain's salesmen have had to give up their company cars in the past year, according to a survey of pay and perks sponsored by the Institute of Marketing. The Government's decision to tax the private use of company cars, which came into force last April, has caused dramatic changes in the value of the company car as a perk. The survey shows that 97 per cent of sales representatives and area and regional man-

agers had company cars in 1982. This year the figure has fallen to between 82 and 89 per cent, Research Regional Surveys, which compiled the survey for the institute, says it is now more attractive for firms to pay many salesmen particularly those on lower salaries - a mileage rate for using their own cars. Company cars will retain their status as a management perk, but the new taxes will reduce the very high benefits from company cars to a more reasonable level, the report says.

The survey also discloses that Vauxhall is overtaking B.L. as the second largest supplier of company cars behind the traditional market leader, Ford. Vauxhall's share of the company car market in the sales and marketing field has jumped from 7 per cent in 1981 to 23 per cent this year, while B.L. has dropped from 12 to 11 per cent and Ford's share has slipped from 64 to 49 per cent.



Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

Although you can't see from the outside, it's the one with cavity wall and loft insulation. For full details on these and many other ways of insulating your home and saving money, simply send for our free booklet.

The Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.' Name: _____ Address: _____ ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT December 5 1983

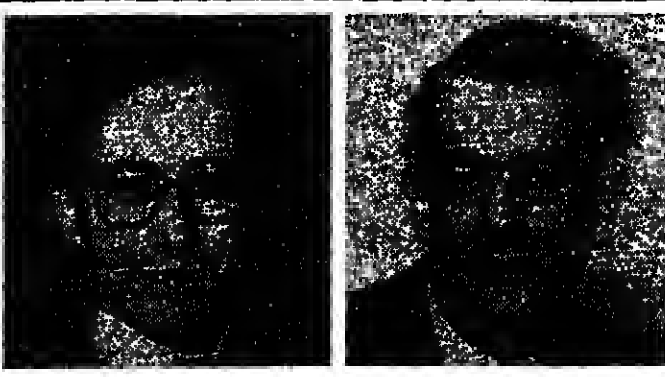
MPs urge minister to recall British troops

MIDDLE EAST

MPs on both sides criticized American action in the Lebanon over the weekend and called for the withdrawal of the British contingent in the peace-keeping force.

The Lebanon welcome the continuing presence of British forces but also do all governments in the region.

will be an opportunity then to have a discussion on a slightly wider front.



Rifkind: Self-defence

Dalyell: Were we told?

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) is there any point in keeping the British force there as cosmetic cover for an alleged peace-keeping force?

of their own men. It is for them to explain and justify to the world if that is a proper course of action.

Some tasks of Crown Agents may be hived off

OVERSEAS AID

Hiving off some of the activities of the Crown Agents in one private sector was one of the options being considered by the Government in its current review of the Agents' affairs.

Crown Agents play in our export business, handling 70,000 orders worth £300m last year? That is our good record which we must do our best to protect.

British taxpayer to bail them out? Will he ensure they do the job they are supposed to do?

Powers to control local authorities' spending

SCOTLAND

The Rating Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill has one simple purpose, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons as he moved the Bill's second reading.

and to provide the means whereby several valuation anomalies could be removed from the Scottish system.

Courts 'too lenient with rapists'

CRIME

When Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) said in the Commons that average sentences for rape were of less than three years, which showed that the judiciary was unduly lenient with that crime.

Seat belts bring drop in deaths

TRANSPORT

In the first five months of the compulsory wearing of seat belts, deaths and serious injuries in front seat occupants of cars and light vans were down 20 per cent on the same period last year.

Mrs Chalker said she had seen some drivers and even some coach drivers and front seat coach passengers wearing seat belts.

Commons he was surprised Mr Prescott had not understood the purpose of a dummy figure in a pre-publication copy of the Bill.

Clash over figure in LT Bill

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, was urged to get into his wet suit and flippers and swim across the Thames to tell the GLC he had misinformed them over figures in the London Transport Bill.

Concern over equal pay regulations

HOUSE OF LORDS

Despite believing that existing legislation on equal pay complies with the EEC's directive, the Government has drafted amending regulations to make Britain fully in accord with the European obligations.

equal pay for men and women and was firmly against sex discrimination, including that which affected jobs and pay.

stating that the House believed the regulations did not adequately reflect the European Court's decision and the EEC equal pay directive.

£19 to handle blood

There was growing public concern about the proposed handling charge for blood supplied by the NHS to private hospitals.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Education (Grants and Awards) Bill, remaining stages. Debate on report of Select Committee on Procedure (Finance): Lords (2.30). Debate on the Falkland Islands.

Whitehall brief

Cant-hunters in spending study

Whenever a British government calls for a great debate, the nation yawns. It happens when Lord Wilson of Rievaulx in the late 1960s wanted the pubs and clubs to echo with the pros and cons of belonging to the EEC.

The Bath cant-hunters reckon that Whitehall feels constrained by the great spending debate, despite exhortations from on high to conduct one.

The Social Science Research Council, whose new chairman, Professor Sir Dennis Hoare, has called publicly for just the kind of initiative Bath is engaged on, has agreed in principle to back it.



Professor Klein (left) and Mr O'Higgins: "Aiming to clear people's minds" (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Ballet group 'disdained' jobs law

The London Festival Ballet company "drove a coach and four horses" through the law when it dismissed a ballet dancer in an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Advertisement for Johnnie Walker Red Label Scotch Whisky, featuring the iconic character and the slogan 'It's always nice to welcome back an old friend.'

هكذا من الأصل

Support for EEC levy as farm spending soars to £5m an hour

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

If all the increased milk production in the EEC since 1981 were to be put in bulk tankers, they would stretch in an unbroken line all the way from London to Athens and back again, and there would still be some left over.

That graphic illustration of the scale of the Community's surpluses was given yesterday by Mr Alan Wilkinson, deputy to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Community's Budget Commissioner, at a seminar at the Royal Smithfield Show.

Present spending on the common agricultural policy was running at £5m an hour, he said.

Mr Wilkinson made clear that there could be no question of a supplementary budget next year, as happened this year. Farmers had to recognize that if no agreement was reached on placing a ceiling on expenditure, the CAP would run out of funds and they would not be paid.

Mr Michael Jopling, British Minister of Agriculture, delivered a similar message at a press conference. In the past there have been only two countries, by which he clearly meant Britain and West Germany, which had hesitated before agreeing to more expensive new schemes.

"But now I find a growing consciousness that we cannot go on this way", he said. "There is, I think, agreement that something has to be done and that we face difficult times in the future."

"Farmers understand that they do not have a God-given right to produce more and more food which we can neither eat at home nor sell abroad and that the time has come to return the CAP to rationality and reality."

There were about 900,000 tonnes of butter and more than 1,000,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder in intervention storage. The British Government had long favoured price reductions as the best way of increasing consumer demands, but given that the best it could hope for was a price freeze, it had to start thinking in terms of a super levy on excess production.

It was important that there should be some of the exemptions which had made the co-responsibility levy so unsatisfactory. The Irish Republic was almost certain to try to veto the super levy proposal, but "I am anxious that the agonies should be felt equally by all members of the Community", Mr Jopling said.

Mrs Marion Cooper, of the Consumers Association, told the seminar that the way EEC handled its finances was not only complicated but also unfair, illogical and almost impossible to control. The money spent would keep open many hospital beds and would pay the salaries of many doctors.

Mr Simon Gourlay, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union, said that although the budgetary cost of the CAP was substantial, it was equivalent to only about one half per cent of the Community's gross domestic product.

British farmers and growers have made a significant but sadly undervalued contribution to the British economy and must be more forceful in publicizing their achievements, Sir Richard Butler, president of the farmers' union, told the conference (The Press Association reports).

"Farmers, by their increased efficiency, have played an important part in the battle against inflation, and consumers can purchase a greater variety of high quality food than ever before at prices that are falling in real terms", he said.

In the five years up to 1982, food prices rose at an average rate of 3.2 per cent a year less than the retail price index.

"Agriculture is a major employer. On its continued success hinges the jobs of the 9 per cent of the employed labour force which depend directly or indirectly on British agriculture, for their employment", he said.



MI5 officer sent for trial on spy charges

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Michael Bettaney, a middle-ranking officer in MI5, was committed for trial yesterday on espionage charges including passing on assessments of Soviet intelligence networks in Britain and details of the expulsion of three Russians.

Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Victoria Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, was sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court after a brief hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrate's Court, London. He faces six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920.

He is charged with passing on information about the expulsion of three Russians on April 3 this year. On the same day he is also accused of acting preparatory to passing on "precise arrangements" about the communication of classified matter.

On June 12 Mr Bettaney is accused of passing on an official assessment of Soviet intelligence services operating in the United Kingdom and a second count of acting preparatory to passing on arrangements for communicating classified information.

On July 10 he is accused of acting preparatory to passing on information by pressing for a response to his proposals of April 3 and June 12. Under the sixth charge he is alleged between December 31 and September 17 to have collected information calculated to be useful to an enemy.

Mr Lawrence Grant, for Mr Bettaney, was granted an extension of legal aid for the trial which is expected next year.

Before the court rose the magistrate, Mr Kenneth Harington, told the press: "Please be careful about publishing anything which might prejudice the conduct of the trial."

£100,000 damages for gas victim's family

The family of a senior army officer who was killed by carbon monoxide gas from a damaged gas central heating system were awarded £100,000 agreed damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Beattie, aged 48, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, died in December, 1976, while staying at a fellow officer's flat in Highgate, north London. Mr Justice Stuart-Smith was told the judge that the British Gas Corporation, which had covered the central heating system with its "two star" maintenance plan, had agreed to pay the damages.

Mr Cole said that Colonel Beattie went to the flat suffering from influenza. He closed the windows, turned the heating to constant setting and went to bed. What he did not know was that a leak in the flue from the gas boiler was causing the hot-air system's fan to blow a mixture of warm air and boiler exhaust into the rooms.

Coals to Newcastle: Three camels being sent from Britain to a new home... in the desert.

The camels - Millie, Molly and Andy - were in a consignment of 274 animals and birds flown from Heathrow yesterday to a new zoo in Doha in the Persian Gulf.

They had been supplied by Whippsnade, London, Bristol and Marwell zoos.

Why send camels to Doha? A spokesman at Whippsnade explained: "The camels are young and were bred in captivity, so they will be used to life in a zoo". (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Queen's cousin burgled

The Queen's first cousin, Mr Gerald Lascelles, was counting the cost yesterday of a break-in at his Cotswolds home in which antiques, bedrooms and family silver, thought to be worth at least £25,000 were stolen.

Mr Lascelles, aged 59, the son of the Earl of Harewood, had been away from his home, Clifden House, Rendcombe, near Cheltenham, with his wife, Elizabeth, spending the weekend with relatives in Yorkshire.

"The thieves seemed to know exactly what was what and where it was", Mr Lascelles said. "They took only the better pieces and they knew where the strongroom was located, and burrowed through a floor to get into it".

Police think a well organized gang using a large vehicle to remove tables, chairs and more than fifty other items must have been responsible.

SBS expert given marines command

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

New promotions will affect the Royal Marines' highest echelons during the next few months.

Lieutenant General Sir Stuart Pringle, the victim of an IRA bomb in October, 1981, retires in April as Commandant General, to be succeeded by the present Major General Royal Marines Commando Forces, Michael Wilkins, who will be promoted to Lieutenant-General.

He will be succeeded next February by Colonel John St John Grey, aged 49, the Royal Marines' colonel who is now responsible for operations and plans in the Ministry of Defence.

Colonel Grey will take the rank of Major-General, but that does not mean he skips the rank of Brigadier. Unlike the army, in the Royal Marines brigadier is not a formal rank, but is more a courtesy title attached to certain appointments.

General Wilkins, a tall, lean man spent several years in the late 1950s in the Special Boat Section, which is a Royal Marine equivalent of the Army's Special Air Service Regiment. He is thought to be the first SBS man to achieve the marine's top appointment.

Much of his early experience was in the Far East. It was not until his middle forties that he became directly involved in what has become the Marines' main speciality, arctic warfare.

At the time of the attack on Sir Stewart all three held appointments in the Ministry of Defence: Sir Stewart as Commandant, General Wilkins as Chief of Staff, and Colonel Grey as Military Secretary, in which role he had special responsibility for promotions and appointments.

While Sir Stewart was in hospital the three used to meet occasionally by his bedside to discuss appointments and propositions.

One of their main preoccupations during the next few months is likely to be attempts to remedy deficiencies in 3 Commando Brigade's supporting arms, revealed during the Falklands conflict.

Although their "yomp" across east Falkland enormously enhanced the marines' reputation, it also showed that they did not possess enough air defence systems, adequate artillery, engineering and reconnaissance support. Those had to be supplied from outside 3 Commando Brigade.

The Ministry of Defence is believed to be considering providing or improving those supporting arms as an integral part of the brigade.

If a major war in Europe second in prospect 3 Commando Brigade would be one of the first British units to respond, with the bulk being shipped to Norway.

In those circumstances there would probably not be time to augment it and achieve a full integration with either territorial or regular army units.

It can, therefore, be argued that the brigade should be enhanced so that it incorporates all the support needed to function autonomously.

That would imply the provision of a battery of heavy ground-to-air missiles, light armoured reconnaissance vehicles and heavier artillery to augment the existing light field guns, and perhaps a second regular squadron of engineers.

THE NEW LONG WHEELBASE FORD TRANSITS. NOW AT LOWER PRICES.

New Ford Transit long wheelbase prices are down - all of them. Vans and chassis cabs. From a nominal payload of 1,000 kg to the top-of-the-range 1,900 kg.

And not by a few pounds. By as much as £273. Prices now start at just £5,052* - yet the Transit LWB has never offered you more.

Under the bonnet, maintenance-free batteries and microwave-timed breakerless ignition combine to cut operating costs.

The cab is more carlike and comfortable than ever. Steering effort is reduced by 20%, and the overdrive option gives relaxed economy at speed.

While outside, new more aerodynamic styling further reduces fuel bills, cutting drag to saloon car levels.

The loadspace, though, could hardly be improved: up to 16.24 cu. metres is available if you put a Luton body on our chassis cab. You can save hundreds, thousands on a fleet, so see your dealer. It all goes to show that Britain can still give you more, for less.

FORD TRANSIT LWB



Major-General Michael Wilkins (left); Colonel John St John Grey and Commandant General Sir Stewart Pringle.

Picking up a penguin costs £700

David Worsley had to pay £700 yesterday for picking up a penguin after a night's drinking.

Worsley, aged 20, a butcher, went for an early morning stroll to sober up, magistrates at Southport, Lancashire, were told.

Mr Michael Wilding, for the prosecution, said that Worsley climbed the Southport fair-ground big dipper, but fell and landed in the zoo alongside the penguin compound.

Worsley said in a statement that he scooped up Percy the Penguin and put him in a wiremesh litter bin.

He said: "I went back to the car with the penguin in the bin and put him in my mate's boot."

Worsley said they drove home but the next day he and his father went to Southport sea front and left the penguin in a plastic bucket tipped on its side. However, the penguin, a rare Humboldt, disappeared.

Worsley of Meadowcroft Farm, Walsley, Bury, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £600 for Percy's replacement.

Warning on 'house for sale' attacks

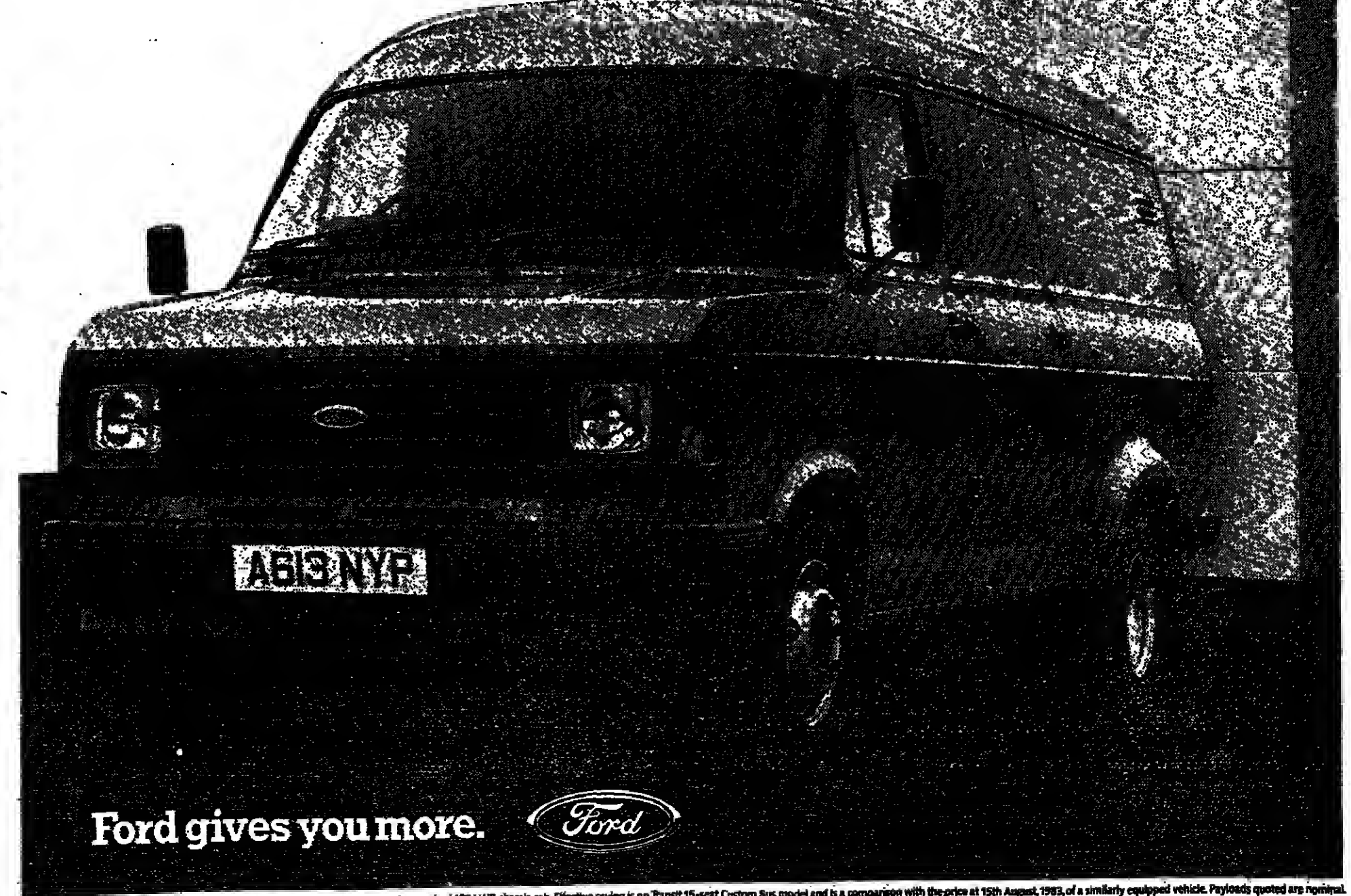
A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday gave a warning to women with houses for sale never to allow unknown men into their homes.

Judge Peire jailed Richard Blake, aged 30, a soldier, for a total of eight years for indecent assault and other offences committed after he was allowed into houses as a prospective buyer.

The judge said: "I hope no married couple, where the lady is alone seeking to sell a house will ever invite a lone man in to look around. The dangers are apparent."

Blake, a REME corporal, of Lucia Park, Bordon, Hampshire, had admitted indecent assault, robbery, burglary and assault with intent to rob.

The court was told that Blake was allowed into homes at Shepperton, London, and Ash Vale, Surrey, as a prospective buyer. He broke into a third house in Grayswood, Surrey. In each case he assaulted the woman of the house, having made sure her husband would be out.



Ford gives you more.

*Price quoted is maximum retail price excluding VAT, number plates and delivery of a standard 100 LWB chassis cab. Effective saving is on Transit 15-seater Custom Bus model and is a comparison with the price at 15th August, 1983, of a similarly equipped vehicle. Payloads quoted are nominal. For full details see October 1983 Ford Transit brochure ref. PB 661.

Andropov back in business after illness, Kremlin says

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov is "recovering from an illness" but carrying out a full range of party and state functions, according to a senior Soviet official.

Mr Leonid Zamyatin did not say when Mr Andropov would return to public view. He has not been seen since the middle of August and did not appear on Red Square for the annual November 7 parade.

Mr Zamyatin, the head of the Central Committee international information department, yesterday referred to a Kremlin statement in October which said Mr Andropov was suffering from a cold.

Asked if he was suggesting that the Soviet leader had been absent for 110 days because of a cold, Mr Zamyatin became angry and said reports of a serious operation were "in-sinuations which do not correspond to reality".

He added enigmatically: "I have already said all that it is possible to state officially" - taken by some observers to mean that Mr Andropov's illness had been more serious than admitted.

Mr Zamyatin did not say whether Mr Andropov would take the chair at forthcoming sessions of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet, Russia's "parliament". Reports from Bonn over the weekend said West German government officials had been told that Mr Andropov would re-emerge next Saturday.

Asked who had been in charge of defence matters, including nuclear decisions, while Mr Andropov was incapacitated, Mr Zamyatin said the President continued to act as chairman of the Supreme Defence Council as well as party leader and head of state.

There are reports that Mr Andropov returned to work recently on a part-time basis. The word "recovering" also means convalescing in Russian and suggests that the President has not resumed full command.

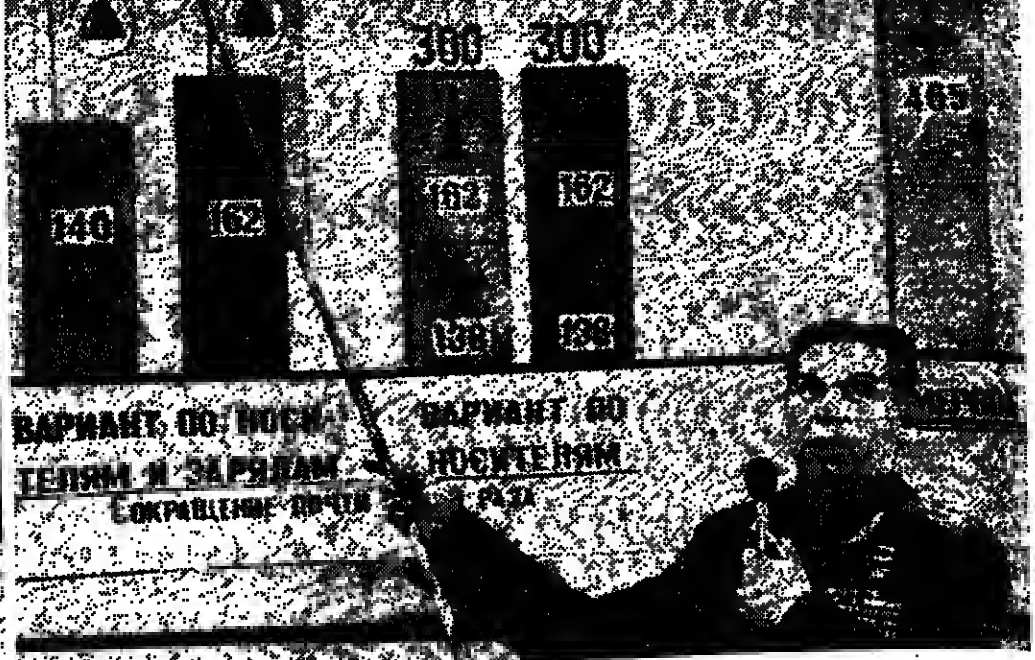
Mr Zamyatin was speaking at a press conference on the future of the Soviet-American arms talks. Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff, and Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Foreign Minister, described the abandoned talks on medium-range missiles as a dead letter and dismissed suggestions that medium-range missiles might be included in the parallel talks on strategic arms reduction (Start), which are continuing. Marshal Ogarkov hinted that the Start talks may also collapse.

Official comments on Kremlin leaders' health are rare, although the authorities are aware of Western concern at a time of East-West tensions.

Unusually, Tess included Mr Zamyatin's remarks about Mr Andropov's health in its English-language report - but the passage is thought unlikely to appear in today's Moscow papers.



Top brass: General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (left) and Sir William Staveley, Commander-in-Chief Channel and Eastern Atlantic, for a meeting of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.



Joining Admiral Wesley McDonald, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and Admiral Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.

East-West talks high on Shultz agenda

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, will discuss with Nato foreign ministers in Brussels this week whether an East-West conference on European disarmament in Stockholm on January 17 should begin at Foreign Minister level.

Such an opening could provide Mr Shultz with an opportunity to renew his bilateral dialogue with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Mr Shultz, however, not said whether he will hold such talks or whether he will attend.

He leaves here today on a week-long tour of West Germany, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco and Portugal for talks with their leaders on East-West relations, arms control issues and Lebanon and North Africa.

Any meeting between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko would be the first since last month's Soviet walkout at the Geneva intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) negotiations.

The two had a frosty exchange at their last meeting in Madrid during the European security conference in September after the Soviet shooting down of the South Korean airliner.

Warsaw Pact meets in Sofia

Belgrade (Reuter) - Warsaw Pact defence ministers gathered in Sofia yesterday for their first joint assessment of the deployment of new US nuclear missiles in West Europe and last month's suspension of the Geneva medium-range missile talks.

The meeting was called amid growing East-West tension caused by the arms build-up in Europe and escalation of the fighting in Lebanon, where US aircraft have attacked positions held by Soviet-backed Syrian troops.

The official Bulgarian news agency, BTA, reported the arrival of ministers from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania, to join the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov who flew in on Sunday.

All were met by the Bulgarian Defence Minister, General Dobri Dzhurov. The Commander-in-Chief of Warsaw Pact forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, is also attending.

Brussels (Reuter) - Defence ministers of 11 West European countries yesterday opened the first round of Nato ministerial meetings since the new American medium range nuclear missiles arrived in West Europe.

Prospects for improving East-West relations in spite of the Soviet walkout from the medium range superpower missile talks in Geneva were expected to top the agenda.

BTA gave no further details of the meeting but Western diplomats in Sofia believed it would continue today after starting yesterday.

The Eastern block has condemned the siting of US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe, which began in Britain and West Germany last month, and President Andropov has announced countermeasures.

These include speeding up the deployment of new-generation Soviet medium-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, abandoning a self-imposed freeze on SS-20 missiles targeted on Western Europe, and deploying sea-launched missiles close to US territory.

Western diplomats said the Sofia meeting could bring a rethink of tactics at two East-West arms forums still in process - the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva between the US and

West sends arms dialogue signal

President Andropov said last month that the new missiles would be sited in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Military sources said the European ministers would consider the idea of merging the interrupted Geneva talks on medium range missiles with the US-Soviet talks on strategic arms as a way of getting Moscow back to the negotiating table.

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Bokassa asks France for residence permit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the former President of the Central African Republic, who arrived unexpectedly in Paris on Sunday night with 15 of his 54 children, his wife, and 20 other women, has asked the French Government for permission to stay permanently in France. He already owns substantial property here, including several Chateaux.

However, France is not at all keen to harbour such an unpredictable and troublesome guest who only a week ago was plotting to return to power in his native country, where he was deposed as Emperor four years ago with French help in the famous "Barracuda Operation", after a series of increasingly appalling atrocities.

M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview yesterday morning that it was not desirable that M Bokassa should remain in France, and that the Government was therefore looking for other countries which would be willing to receive him.

M Bokassa, who has served in the French Army, has always claimed to have French citizenship. However, M Cheysson insisted yesterday that the French courts did not accept that claim. "He is a foreigner who can therefore be asked to leave France," he said.

Immediately after his overthrow in 1979, M Bokassa sought refuge in France, but was refused permission to stay on account of his "serious repeated violations of human rights". He went instead to the Ivory Coast, where President Houphouët-Boigny agreed to receive him after a personal request from President Giscard d'Estaing.

The final straw was the revelation last week of plans for a coup d'etat. A Caravelle aircraft actually took off from Paris on November 26 with the organizer of the coup, M Roger Delpey, a French writer and long-time friend and confidant of M Bokassa, a dozen mercenaries, and several journalists. It was due to pick up M Bokassa in Abidjan before flying on to the Central African Republic, where M Bokassa was due to be reinstated as Emperor. However, the French intelligence services warned President Houphouët-Boigny of the aircraft's imminent arrival, and it was intercepted.

M Bokassa, who is at present staying at his chateau on the south-west outskirts of Paris, said in a statement issued through his lawyer that he would refuse all offers of asylum in any country save France or the Central African Republic.

South Africans capture white army defector

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A South African Army officer who defected to Mozambique seven months ago seeking political asylum has been arrested in South Africa after flying back apparently to try to see his wife and baby daughter.

Lieutenant Gerald Eckers, aged 24, of the Army Medical Service, was arrested by military police at Jan Smuts airport, near Johannesburg, on Sunday night as he tried to slip back into the country unnoticed to see his estranged wife, Veronica, and their daughter who will be a year old this month.

A military spokesman said yesterday he would be charged with desertion.

Lieutenant Eckers, who was born in Germany, crossed the border into Mozambique last May five days after South African jets raided Maputo, the capital, in reprisal for the African National Congress car bomb attack on Air Force headquarters in Pretoria which killed 20 people.

As a male nurse in a Pretoria military hospital he had no access to any secrets but he said in Maputo that as a privileged white in South Africa he could not live with his conscience.

She not only misses the 27 bus.
She misses you.



Isn't it ironic that old people, who are amongst the least privileged members of society are also the least likely to voice their own case?
And hence, the easiest to ignore.
But old people have needs, even though they may not shout about them.
In particular, they have transport needs. The need to visit shops. The need to visit the doctor or the hospital. The need to visit family and friends or to enjoy an outing.
Needs that, in most cases, are served by the bus.
The trouble is the bus is under threat.

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Baby Jane Doe case ensnares parents, courts and Reagan

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Baby Jane Doe lies in her hospital cot, around her rages a fierce controversy. Her parents, doctors, the court and the Reagan Administration are caught up in the question of who should decide whether she lives or dies.

Baby Jane - her name is pseudonym and her identity a secret - was born eight weeks ago with several severe defects. She has an abnormally small head and brain, excess fluid on the brain and spina bifida and an incompletely formed spine.

Doctors at the hospital in Long Island, New York, told her parents that without surgery she would die within two years. If she has a series of operations she could live for 20 years but would be completely disabled and severely retarded.

After consulting doctors and clergy, her parents said there should be no surgery. But their decision came to the attention of a right-to-life group called Birthright who alerted a lawyer. He obtained a court order instructing doctors to operate, but Baby Jane's parents appealed and the order was overturned.

Then the Reagan Administration became involved in an unprecedented way. It said that failure to operate violated Baby Jane's civil rights and demanded to see the hospital records of her case. The hospital refused to hand them over and the Government sued the hospital.

surgery but the question turned on parental consent. And the parents, he said, had made a reasonable decision "based on genuine concern for the best interest of the child."

The Government appealed and the case is now being considered by three judges in New York. The Government's attempt to intervene in a private dilemma has helped to stoke the controversy. The Administration is being criticized for high-handedness.

Last year, after the case of a baby with Down's Syndrome who died after its parents said they did not want it treated, the Administration ordered new rules for hospital nurseries and maternity wards.

The rules called for notices to be posted in nurseries saying that failure to feed or care for handicapped babies was illegal. Telephone "hotlines" were set up so that any failures to do so could be reported to Washington. A court later struck down the new rules.

The case of Baby Jane Doe has raised many disturbing questions. Right-to-life groups see it as an important test case. Other people are concerned about the Government's interference in complex moral and medical questions.

And argument goes on about what should be done with very seriously handicapped children whose lives would be distressingly blighted if they were allowed to survive despite their parents' decision that they should not be treated.



King and country: King Juan Carlos of Spain addressing the lower House of Parliament yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the return of democracy.

Devastating guerrilla warfare

Rebels without a cause prove to be experts at disruption

In a second article on Mozambique, Stephen Taylor, recently in Maputo, describes the character of the guerrilla war that is undermining the country.

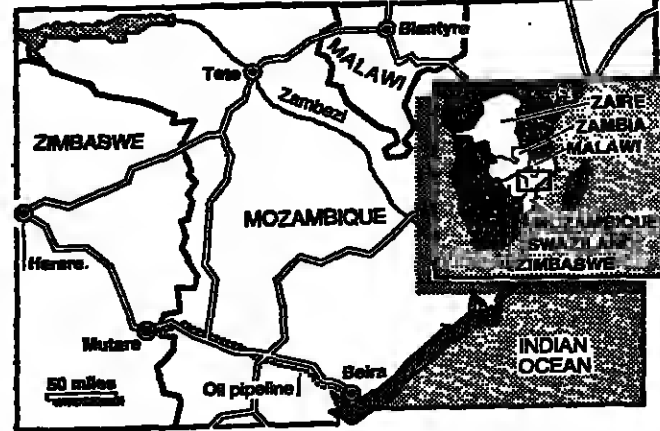
After years of sporadic guerrilla warfare, Mozambican insurgents four weeks ago introduced a dangerous element in their conflict against the Frelimo Government, swooping on a camp in the northern Zambezia province where they killed two Soviet mining technicians and abducted another 23.

Elsewhere the incident would have made world headlines. As it is, although 18 of the Russians remain captives of the Mozambican Resistance Movement (MNR) the Zambezia raid has become just another fading chapter in the murky war which is devastating Mozambique.

The conflict has little to do with territory or even ideology. MNR guerrillas, numbering between 8,000 and 10,000, are active in all but one of the 10 provinces but have no territorial stronghold. They inflict brutal suffering on Frelimo supporters but espouse no political credo.

"The voice of free Africa", the MNR propaganda radio station broadcasting from South Africa, serves up an uninspired litany of anti-Frelimo invective.

What the resistance movement is good at is disruption. Railways, road traffic, storage depots and the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe have been struck repeatedly to the dismay not only of Frelimo but governments in neighbouring states. Mozambique's ports are vital to Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland - all of which are members of the Southern African Development Conference - and Zaire, which is not. Such circumstantial evidence that the MNR is being manipu-



lated as a tool of regional destabilization by South Africa is substantiated by more solid intelligence, such as the assassination of Orlando Cristina, a key figure in the movement, in Pretoria earlier this year. The killing is generally believed to have been the result of an internal feud.

The only other figures in the MNR whose names are generally known are Alfonso Dhlakama, the military commander, said by the Mozambicans to have been a Frelimo soldier until he was discharged for theft

MOZAMBIQUE Part 2

in 1976; and Senhor Evo Fernandes, the MNR spokesman in Lisbon.

A primary target has been the Lombo-controlled pipeline from Beira port to Zimbabwe, closed for 15 years after the imposition of sanctions on Rhodesia in 1965. After months of rehabilitation work, it was sabotaged only days before its scheduled reopening in October 1981, and remained closed until June last year. Since then it has been sabotaged at least four times.

Zimbabwe's desperation to have the pipeline functioning, thus avoiding dependence on oil imports through South Africa, prompted the Government to send 2,000 troops to help Frelimo forces guard the installation last December. Almost immediately petrol storage tanks in Beira were sabotaged, precipitating a fuel crisis in Zimbabwe.

Another favoured target, and one which has had far greater impact on the majority of Mozambicans, is the state shops in rural areas, about half of which have been destroyed. Mr Manuel Aranda da Silva, Minister of Internal Trade, says priority is being given to reestablishing the shops with

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Anatoli Marchenko

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Anatoli Marchenko, the author of a celebrated book on Soviet labour camps, is serving his sixth sentence, for "anti-Soviet agitation", in Camp No 25 at Perm. If he serves his full term it will be March, 1991, before he is free. He is married and has a son, aged 10.

Mr Marchenko, aged 46, was born in Barabinsk, Siberia, the son of an assistant machinist on the railways.

He was 19 and working in Karaganda, when he was first arrested and convicted after a riot. His experiences in the camps were to provide him with material for his later political writings.

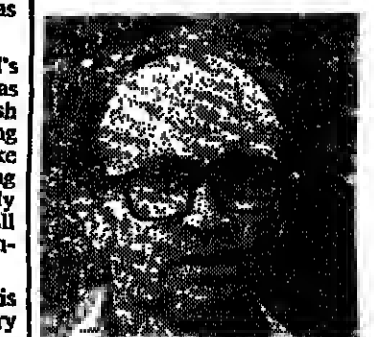
Not long after his release, he tried to leave the Soviet Union without an exit permit. He was sentenced to six years' hard labour for "treason against the Fatherland".

Now he began a pattern of political writings, open letters and articles would be circulated in samizdat. Most were indictments of the living conditions of workers, of the camps and prisons and of widespread abuse of human rights. The writings would be followed by arrest, a prison sentence, or banishment. Mr Marchenko's present sentence, 10 years' reeducation through hard labour, followed by five years' loss of civil rights, is the most severe he has received.

His health has been poor since the 1960s, when he became deaf while in "special regime" in Vladimir prison, after an ear infection remained untreated.

He is now believed to be suffering from chronic gastritis, arthritis and failing sight, all aggravated by appalling diet, harsh prison conditions and several hunger strikes.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Marchenko: Wrote about labour camps.

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Little black dressing

When the celebration of Yves Saint Laurent's designs opens at the Metropolitan Museum in New York next week, the key exhibit will be his plain black tuxedo suit. It stands out among the galaxy of glamour and style that takes us from the early days at Dior, through the 1960s geometrics, the explosion of colour and richness in the Ballet Russe collection to the Parisian refinement of today.

Diana Vreeland, the special consultant to the Costume Institute, understands better than anyone the purity of Saint Laurent's style. From among the wide selection of garments offered by New York's socialites (over a hundred by one enthusiast alone), Mrs Vreeland has distilled the essential Saint Laurent for the first exhibition ever devoted to a living designer by the Metropolitan Museum's costume department. His message comes across in myriad styles, but the little black dressing says it all: simplicity of line, perfection of cut and a dash of wit.

Yves Saint Laurent re-invented the art of black magic. He also exposed the tuxedo suit, with trousers or skirt, or cut in one piece as a dress. Le smoking was first shown by YSL in 1966. This marriage of masculine tailoring to the female body has been his contribution to twentieth century fashion, and a reflection of social change and a modern woman's needs.

The fact that so many garments in the Metropolitan's exhibition could be worn today, underlines the credo of Lady Rendlesham, managing director of the Rive Gauche shops in London and an absolute disciple of Saint Laurent's classic taste.

His dress of this season is a simple column of black velvet, wickedly short, studded at the side with rhinestone buttons and the most seductive example of the LBD.

Although London is currently in the thrall of black velvet and lace, of slithers of black jersey and clouds of black net, the French designers are the artists with black. The Chanel suit in lustrous velvet, with a Puritan white bow at the neck to belie the curves, is another way of making magic out of an outfit that is a familiar party-garment.

The idea of dressing up for evening, has taken hold again, with pastie and pearls, rhinestones and the real thing all twinkling across the midnight black. Harrods opened their grand new Evening and After Six department three weeks ago, devoted to glamorous evening wear and well-timed for the party season. Included in the new area are British designers like Roland Klein and Anne Tyrrell for John Marks, as well as separates from all sources to help you put a new look together.

The style of the season is the LBD itself, the plainer the better, perhaps with a deep V-back and definitely short rather than long, although Calvin Klein and Krizia both do wonderful things with black velvet at Browns.

Fluffy black angora makes an elegant sweater or evening jumper to go with a black velvet sheath skirt, and street-wise girls put the look together with a net petticoat and a jumper for fun and almost for free.

I believe that you get what you pay for, and the most ravishing dresses are in the uppermost price levels. Emanuel Ungaro has some exquisite dresses in his Bond Street shop that are almost couture quality.

But the LBD comes at all price levels right through the market place, including a puff ball of lace on a bustier dress at Miss Selfridge and a sheath of black velvet, with V fore and aft at Wallis, Marks and Spencer too have put a strapless black cocktail dress into selected stores which proves how the mood for dressing up has reached a general audience.

Less is more when it comes to Little Black Dressing, with the cut of a fine dress speaking louder than sequins and trimmings. But accessories do glitter with rhinestones studded in lights, hair ornaments and bold jewelry.

Our own dress collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum includes a selection of LBDs from Balmain to Balenciaga to Saint Laurent himself. The enviable skill of the master designer is to make fashion museum pieces that women still want to wear.




Far left: Yves Saint Laurent's Little Black Dress in velvet, cut asymmetrically with rhinestone buttons £320, glitter earrings and bracelet, plain black suede shoes £87, all from Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, 113 New Bond Street, W1 and 25/27 Simpson Road, SW3. Rhinestone studded sheer black tights £15 from Gracie, 27 Conduit Street, W1. Left: Chanel's wicked snippets of black lace. Decorative tunic blouse £250 satin tie, milk white pearls and diamonds and pearl earrings all from Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1. Make-up by Chanel Beauté using the Lumière collection: Teint Naturel "Porcelaine", finely dusted with "Beige Lumière" for a translucent finish. Cheekbones subtly shaded with rose, eyes bright with pink and violet Ombre Crayonné, "Rouge Magique" lips with a touch of "Galaxie".



Above: White satin pussy-cat bow and usherette cuffs on a black velvet suit with rhinestone buttons and buckled belt. From Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1. Left: The tuxedo dress in velvet with satin lapels £207 by Janice Wainwright from a range in Harrods' Designer Eveningwear room, Selfridges, Henrietta Bath, Knightsbridge of Leicester. Rhinestone studded belt £35 by Otto Glanz from Harvey Nichols. Glitter chains and earrings from Chanel, Old Bond Street, W1. Hair by SHAWNAL Daniel Galvin. Visagiste MARY GREENWELL for Chanel. Photographs by JOHN SWANNELL.

FASH FLASH

● The twelve-foot high "cosmic egg" on the forecourt of the Commonwealth Institute is just a taste of an extraordinary exhibition inside. "Goddesses" is a celebration in sculpture of the spirit of India by Andrew Logan, inspired by a recent trip to the country and his work with close friend Zandra Rhodes. Visual and sensory delights include holograms, incense and an Indian tea stall. Logan's articulated sculpture of Zandra moving like an Indian dancer incorporates the shattered mirrors and glitter he is well-known for in his jewelry. "Goddesses" is in the Art Gallery, Commonwealth Institute, W8 until December 31. ● An important exhibition which brings together the work of selected students from art and design colleges around the country is being staged at the Barbican Centre until January 15. Three years in the making, "Young Blood" has a good proportion of fashion design elements in the 2,000 exhibits. In the high fashion section, "Personal Images", clothes are shown as integral parts of their environment. A particularly interesting choice is a project by first year students at Preston Polytechnic on the theme of aggressive fashions. Innovations in textile construction and application have an important place in industry and some impressive work by students of the Constructed Textiles course at Middlesex Polytechnic is on display. Admission: £3 adults, children over 12 £2. Closed Mondays. Christine Pinnell



Fortnum's

AN OCCASIONAL COMMENTARY ON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Look, Vanessa, then's Henry, I've been dropping hints about that beautiful dressing gown all the week. "I saw this absolutely gorgeous dressing gown in Fortnum's", I said. "It's pure wool in the most heavenly colour, from the Jean Muir Art Home Collection, and it's just £155".

Well, I suppose it was a bit obvious, but I do find men need to be pointed in the right direction at Christmas, don't you? And what better direction could you point a man than the Linergic Department at Fortnum's.

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Cocktail dresses are short and shapely for the winter season. Figure-flattering straight slim skirts have now replaced the trouser-former dressing with the evening jacket often cropped and fitted.

Black back-buttoning polyester satin dress £69, also laceba by Suky at Harrods' Evening and After Six department.



Black angora cardigan applied with satin sequins £50, also grey, black, pink. Black satin skirt with sequin side detail £35.50, also grey.

Both by Mondri from Harrods' Selfridges; Dickins & Jones; Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1; Brent Cross NW4 and Newcastle, Angela Beer, Woodford Bramhall, Club 77 Shrewsbury.



Black jacket £73.50 by Phase 8 Design, Fulham Road, SW10; New King's Road, SW6; Bellevue Road, Weybridge, Surrey, TW17; Notting Hill Gate, W8 and Harvey Nichols. Black lace camisole £14.95 from Phase 8 shops, Eves, Torquay; Syboe, Colchester. Black velvet skirt with bow and lace insert £46 from Phase 8, Eves, Torquay; Butterfly, Manchester.



Black velvet lined slip dress with side-buttons £114 by Georges Rech from Simpson, Piccadilly, W1; Young Ideas, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Wardrobe in Chiltern Street and Grosvenor Street W1 have a range of Georges Rech eveningwear, including a long black chiton skirt and shimmering satin 2-piece.

Illustrations by JOYCE MACDONALD

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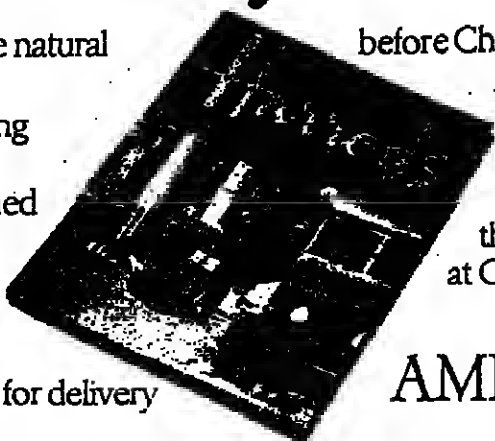
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SPECTRUM

Young Blood

Student designers are showing off their newest work at The Barbican Centre.

Robin Young finds metal hoppers, meat slicers, motor-cycles and many other inventions for the manufacturer to give them breath

The cult of nil design

The Barbican Centre is a dog's dinner of design defects, so its Art Gallery is just the place for an exhibition to show that Britain has bright designers and bright design ideas - and people in positions of responsibility who have no idea how to put them to use.

The Young Blood exhibition parades 2,500 examples of work from Britain's colleges of art and design. It is the first time their work has been shown in the same place at the same time. It is a big, some might say desperate, bid for recognition.

We live in a badly designed environment. The Young Blood exhibition is interspersed with photographs of our lousy street corners, with commentaries on the "design decisions" that made them.

We live in a country where distasteful style is raised to a cult. The best of British style is the wearing of dead men's clothes. We think quality is what

Despite all, the range and quality of Britain's design education continues to excite admiration in countries abroad.

About a third of Britain's top design graduates end up working for our foreign competitors: The sewing machine with which the Japanese swept the world was designed by a Briton. Olivetti UK scouts for British talent to join those already at their studios in Milan. A Briton is senior designer with Valentino.

The statistics suggest that employment opportunities for the graduates of Britain's design courses are at an all time low, with a quarter failing to find jobs and almost as many drifting into self-employment that may secure them little more than the dole. But opportunities exist abroad. As the British textile and fashion industries decline, colleges have developed strong links in Italy, France and the United States.

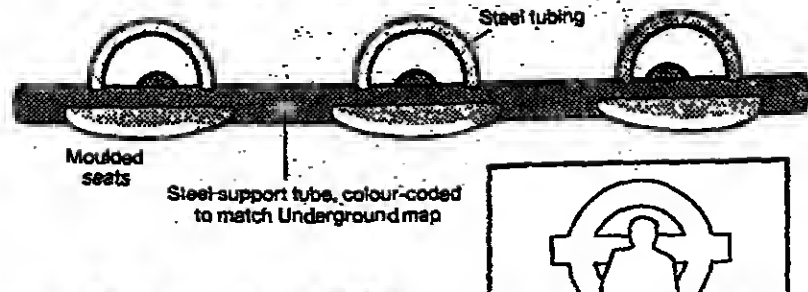
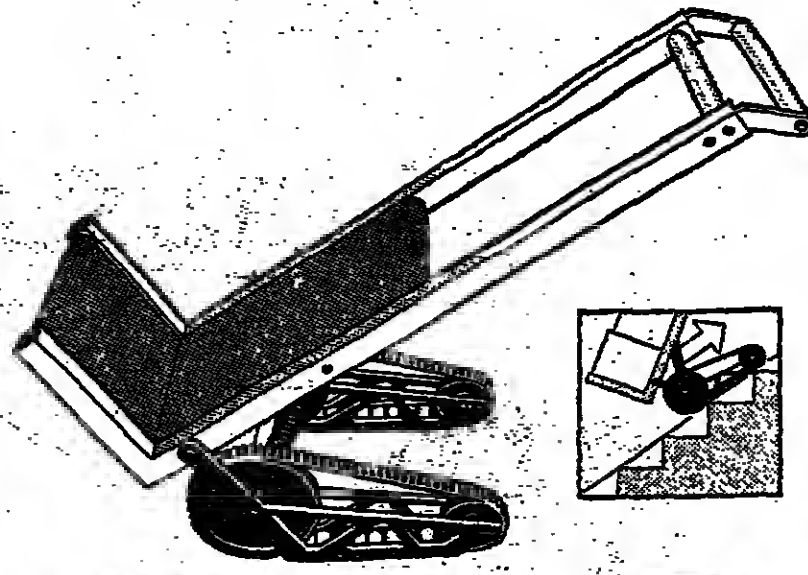
The Government is concerned. It has, for example, overhauled the design of its own forms. When Sir Derek Rayner reviewed them a couple of years ago he was outspokenly critical, but singled out one DHSS form for praise. It had been done by an art college student. Subsequently the girl had applied for a job as a designer in the Civil Service. She had, of course, been turned down.

But now Mrs Thatcher is interested, and John Butcher, the under secretary of state for industry, is able to point to a seminar campaign called Design for Profit which the Government has aimed at senior industrial management - and to £10m ploughed into a funded consultancy scheme administered by the Design Council for industry's benefit.

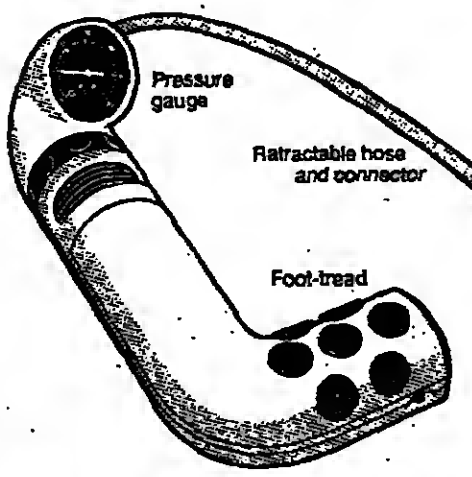
Sir Keith Joseph says the key part design must play in the resurgence of manufacturing industry is reason for putting £20,000 toward Young Blood. Does he know that four times that grant went in simply staging the exhibits within the Barbican "art gallery" walls so that they could be seen?

Managers still think design is to do with art

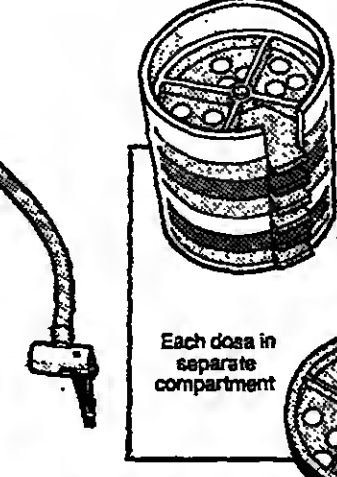
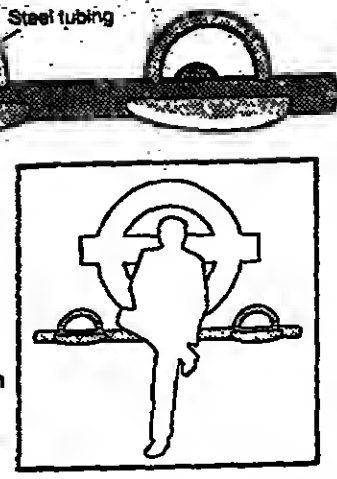
Bad design costs money. Good design means the most practical way. It is something our industrial managers, frozen in the C. P. Snow-bound wastes between the "arts" and "science" sides of our educational system, are numb about. Our slide down the competitive slope is greased by our industrial managers' incompetence with design.



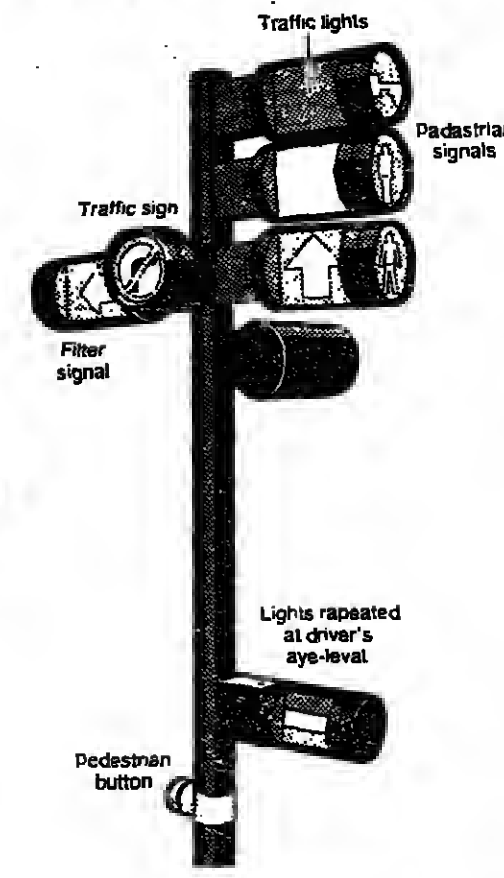
Above and Right: Tim Tootley's Underground seating for short-term use by the infirm and handicapped was evolved on an exercise in cooperation with London Transport, and situated on Fotheringhay station. The perch seats with vacuum support also provide back support, which was missing before, and relate to London Underground's logogram. (Ravensbourne College of Art and Design).



Above: Hugh Cornell designed a car foot pump, easier to handle, with built-in pressure gauge, stowable hose, and clean lines. (Leeds Polytechnic).



Left: Pablo Pico's stair-climbing trolley adapts the caterpillar tractor principle to help the user manoeuvre it up kerbs or staircases. (Teesside Polytechnic). Below: Malcolm Wright's modular traffic signal with lights for filtering, for forbidding right turns, and for signalling pedestrians. It also provides miniature repeater lights at motorists' eye level, as in France. (Leeds Polytechnic).



Left: In the course of her research Debbie Andrews discovered that one seventh of the patients in geriatric wards are there because of mismanagement of their drug prescriptions. Her pill dispenser to encourage correct administration of medication by the elderly and infirm mounts colour-coded trays, one for each day of the week, in a transparent plastic holder. Each tray has moveable partitions so that it can be divided into compartments for pills to be taken at different times of the day, and the opening can be operated by finger, or pen if the joints are too stiff. There is also provision for braille labelling if required. (Chelsea School of Art).

Reconstruction drawings by JOHN GRIMWADE

They still think it is vaguely to do with art, removed from commercial reality.

One recent design graduate now working on fork lift trucks told me: "British manufacturers only want us to make fork lift trucks look prettier". What he wants to do is make fork-lift trucks more efficient. A research student said her prototype machine for a new knitweave process can only make 6in samples: "Showing them to British manufacturers is useless. They cannot see the possibilities". Printers and weavers hardly try to produce fabrics they can get manufactured here. Instead they take their portfolios straight to the United States.

Anyone who goes to the Young Blood exhibition with the old idea that art school classes sit around drawing nudes will be surprised. There is not a painting or sculpture in the show. Instead there is a better reverse osmosis water purifier; furniture specially designed for handicapped children; a collapsible emergency rescue stretcher; scientifically accurate illustrations of the plumage of Tringine Sandpipers of the Western Palaearctic;

a road supertanker, with more capacity and a quieter cab.

And schools, indeed, are places where students work very hard and research thoroughly, motivated by an idealistic desire that the world in future should be more colourful, and more efficient than the present.

Printers and weavers go to the US

Here is an attempt to give a telephone answering machine "characteristic identity". It looks like the organ from some incredible shrinking Odeon. And there is a vacuum cleaner to go under almost any furniture, and intended to eject compressed dust pellets. Nearby a robot teapot called T4U2 carries electronic controls in its perspex chest, and a graphic artist has adapted Space Invaders imagery for a package that would contain sheaths "with built-in spermicide".

Metal Hoppers like gateways to the wastebins are pressed steel seating for airport lounges and, surprisingly, comfortable. Another student claims to have produced "the meat slicer for the decade" by researching what will be most aesthetically pleasing for both user and customer. Round the corner an economical microlight made for two, and a car of plastic panels with detachable seat cushions which double as sunbeds. Here is an ambulance with improved access and storage, complete with manufacturers' costings which indicate that "it ought to appeal to both home and overseas markets".

Near by the Tyro, a children's motorbike with a seat height and adjustment, removable front fork, and sealable fuel tank could be produced for £180 against the £200 currently charged for an engine and two wheels. The caption says "The Tyro must surely appeal to an entrepreneurial manufacturer. Will he be British, or come from overseas?" Several hundred times, that is the challenge Young Blood offers British industry. Will there be any response?

moreover... Miles Kington

A happening, dateline Bethlehem

Students of the magazine *Private Eye* have often wondered how editor Richard Ingrams can combine his unrepentant publishing of fictitious scandal with his deeply religious view of life. How does Christianity fit in with contumely? Easily, it seems. *Moreover* has been lucky enough to secure very early copies of *Private Eye*, dating from A.D. O, containing some revealing stories. The following extracts should give the flavour.

"The Jews [see *Eye passim*] are at it again. Although totally unable to govern themselves, they have always objected to the efforts of the wise and good Romans to organize them, and the latest attempts of governor Cyrenius to extract a few paltry taxes from them to pay for this noble work are meeting with sullen resistance. "Opposition is especially strong in the town of Bethlehem, where it is rumoured that a future champion of the race has recently been born. *Eye* investigations reveal that the so-called messiah is the mewling off-spring of an unemployed carpenter named Joseph, at present living in a squat in a Bethlehem stable with a consort named Mary. Or is he the father? Mother Mary seems strangely confused over the parentage of the child and has told friends that she thinks God may be the father. God was not, at the time of going to press, available for comment."

"Readers of the *Eye* will remember our previous revelations about mediator John the so-called Baptist (see issue 2, 5, and 8) who, when he is not planning uprisings against the Romans, is claiming to be on the line to God and should clearly be put away. Now he is showing an interest in more earthly matters and is conducting a feverish affair with none other than Salome, daughter of busybody tetrarch Herod (105). The oily desert-loving John had been seen late at night in close consultation with the promiscuous Salome, whose career as a dancer has been hampered only by her complete lack of talent. A friend of the dubious couple says they were only discussing "doctrinal affairs". This explanation will not be good enough to satisfy the wrath of father Herod."

"More news about the Son of God (see last issue). Agents of a foreign power have seen visiting the Bethlehem stable where the impetuous messiah lies in conditions condemned by the local health visitor. Reportedly they have left behind gifts for him, said to be expensive perfumes and gold ingots. Receiving payment from a foreign, possibly hostile, power in return for future services seems to qualify as treason. More information, please; 30 pieces of silver for all facts used."

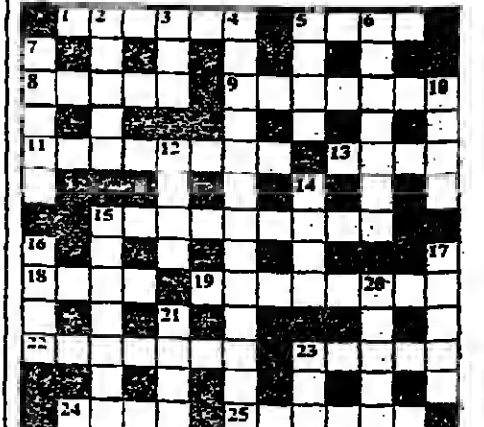
"Spart the Baptist writes: 'Neo-colonialist occupation by the Romans has led to the, er, total corruption of society by their discredited city values, and our only hope now is to look to a figure who will lead us out of decadence, though this has been totally covered up by the media. I refer of course...' (cont. p 94)."

"An *Eye* reader writes from Nazareth: 'I wonder if the Joseph whom you reported as being the father of the Son of God is the same Joseph whom I employed five years ago to mend a doorway and knock up a couple of chairs. The chairs fell to his three weeks later, and the door fell on my wife causing anguish both mental and physical. Repeated requests to Joseph's firm to put right the damage met with complete silence, as did requests for repayment. I am not surprised that he has moved to Bethlehem to restart operations; readers in Bethlehem should be warned.'"

"In the hills near Bethlehem sheep lie unattended at night, as shepherds flock in the late hours to the stable where the so-called Son of God is in residence. Neighbours have complained in vain about the sound of late-night celebration and rejoicing coming from the stable. Who is protecting whom on Bethlehem Town Council? We think we should be told."

"Apology. Following a visitation from an archangel, *Private Eye* now recognises that there was no truth in recent stories about Bethlehem. We withdraw them unreservedly and have sold all we have and given unto the poor."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 216)



- ACROSS
- 1 Scanty (6)
 - 5 Cloudy (4)
 - 8 Mountainous (5)
 - 9 Adulteress's husband (7)
 - 11 Showy clothing (8)
 - 13 Rock and roll (4)
 - 15 Reflection (9)
 - 18 Affectedly proper (4)
 - 19 Memory aid (8)
 - 22 Enduring enemy (7)
 - 23 Mannequin (5)
 - 24 Ardour (4)
 - 25 Respect (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Crab sensors (5)
 - 3 Gleam (3)
 - 4 Reduced train fare (9)
 - 5 Tail - a chance (4)
 - 6 Lion like (7)
 - 7 Iritate (5)
 - 10 Small quantity (4)
 - 12 Agreement (4)
 - 14 Thin coating (4)
 - 15 Small washup (7)
 - 16 Musical work (4)
 - 17 Chide (3)
 - 20 Gentle poke (5)
 - 21 Grid (4)
 - 23 Encountered (3)

- SOLUTION TO No 215
- ACROSS: 1 Terephthalic 9 Elegiac 10 Luric 11 Add 13 Oath 16 Burr 17 Utopia 18 Arch 20 Lewd 21 Assize 22 Ibis 23 Gait 25 Dip
- DOWN: 2 Eerie 3 Pig 4 JATA 5 Hold 6 Recluse 7 Memorabilia 8 Depredation 12 Daimio 14 Huh 15 Bonsai 19 Climate 20 Leg 24 Agree 25 Disc 26 Puck 27 Edge



Every year, hundreds of old people spend Christmas in the same place.

For many old people, Christmas Day is just another day in another year of loneliness. No wonder some don't even see a reason to get out of bed for it.

It's a tragic situation, but one that, with your help, we can do something about.

Our donations will help establish Day Centres, and provide minibuses for transport. So that lonely old people can meet and make friends with others in the same position.

Because with friends, a lonely old person need never be lonely again.

Please give generously.

To: The Hon. Treasurer, Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T1007, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed)

I enclose my cheque/postal order for £

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Help the Aged Christmas Appeal



Lancelot (Capability) Brown died 200 years ago. In this bicentenary year a major planning row is centred on one of his landscaped parks - Highclere in Hampshire, the home of Lord Porchester,

where the Minister of Transport's attempt to divert the A34 (Southampton to the Midlands) trunk road through the Capability Brown park received a rebuff in the High Court on October 7. The Minister decided last week not to appeal and will reissue orders and hold a public inquiry if the level of objection warrants it.

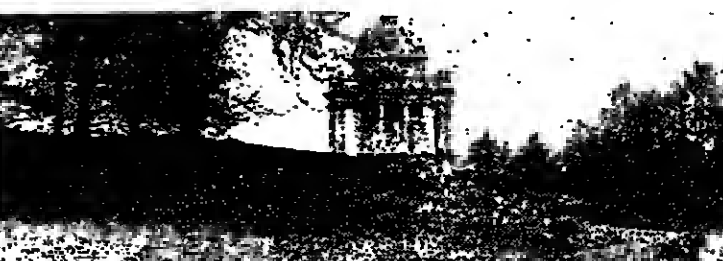
Ironically, Brown never hesitated to divert roads, rivers and demerolish villages. His work mirrored both an aggressive ownership of land and the dramatic changes in land use taking place during his lifetime. Then, a Brown park was a symbol of progress or of predation - depending on one's view.

Highclere has become a rallying point for the defenders of our heritage against public authorities which, in today's more crowded England, have to balance the claims on our most valuable asset - the land. The irony is that the enlightened county council which, recognising that the Brown landscape is reaching the end of its natural life-cycle, is trying to restore the park as well as help to accommodate the motorists.

Although there is a growing interest in preserving and restoring landscapes, the fact that much of Brown's work is now decaying is rarely appreciated. Thousands of acres of parkland which Brown transformed have now reached a critical stage as the first generation of trees dies out.

Born in 1716 in Northumberland - known as 'Capability' because he referred to the capability of a landscape to his clients - had a meteoric rise from obscure gardener to celebrity and friend and adviser of kings and dukes. He grew up at a time when English gardening was undergoing a radical change from the regular or architectural style, exemplified by the baroque geometry of the French school of Le Notre, to the English irregular, natural or landscape style - one of Britain's greatest contributions to the 18th century.

Peta Levi on key figures in a landscape Capability's fading glory



Highclere Park: In the centre of a major planning row

One person saddened by the contemporary lack of appreciation of Brown is Hal Moggridge, a partner in the landscape architects Colvin & Moggridge. He has recently been called in to advise on the restoration of two very different Brown landscapes - Blenheim, perhaps one of Brown's largest and best known parks and Cadland, Hampshire. The latter, owned by Mr and Mrs Maldwyn Drummond, had become completely overgrown but, unusually, the original Brown plans still exist in the family archives. Brown not only wrote no books but produced few plans which survive.

A Brown landscape is a deliberate and precise work of art. Moggridge says: "It is not possible to achieve the same effects if new clumps of trees are planted beside the old or the shape of the clumps are altered; you will either block or distort at least one view." He also makes the point that in England if nature is left to itself the whole of the lowlands would be covered by unkept woodland. It would be nothing like the English landscape we admire, composed as it is of open spaces and groups of trees.

Because Brown used a good deal of beech (and beech and most trees have only about a 200-year life-cycle), his main structural planning, which has endured without much attention, is now breaking up. Moggridge says that re-planting is

often done, but usually in ignorance - gaps are being filled, shapes of shelter belts are changed and a more commercial approach to forestry is applied.

There are exceptions, such as at Petworth, well looked after by the National Trust, but ironically Petworth too has been threatened by a by-pass which would run through the middle of Brown's park. About Harwood, Yorkshire, Moggridge comments: "Although the house is exquisitely kept, with great sensitivity, the grounds, designed by Brown, seem to be slowly changing character."

There has been considerable ornamental planting. Although quite attractive, it is inappropriate, either because of the species planted or because it is blocking views. It feels as if it is being done by someone who is interested in collecting plants but who doesn't enjoy the work of art. I think that people whose families first commissioned the parks have lost some of the sensibility towards parklands - and unfortunately it doesn't come much into British education."

The Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim is an exception. Both he and his agent, Paul Hutton, are tree-conscious. After the Grand Avenue, designed by Wise and replanted by the ninth Duke, died of elm disease in the mid-1970s, the Avenue was

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THE ARTS

Concerts

LPO/Rostropovich Festival Hall

It is unfortunate that last night's performance of Britten's War Requiem should have come so soon after the powerful new recording conducted by Simon Rattle...

Strong, too, were the big orchestral climaxes, and particularly the great swirl of sound that Mr Rostropovich achieved just before the last Owen scene...

Paul Griffiths

Bumbry, Verrett Covent Garden

When Shirley Verrett turned to Grace Bumbry on the stage of the Royal Opera House last night and, as La Gioconda, taunted Laura with "You would fly then, my happy rival?"...

generated between them. No matter, either, that the Royal Opera Orchestra, conducted by Michael Langelli Veltro, making his British debut...

Hilary Finch

Galleries

Love among the majestic ruins

John Piper The Tate Gallery; Marlborough Fine Arts

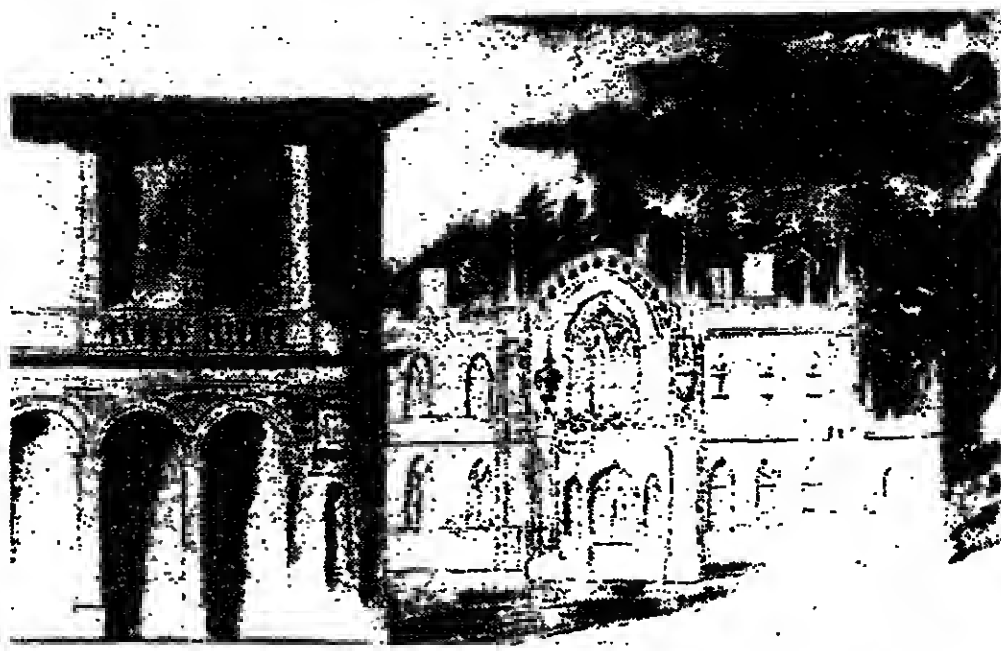
Old Master Paintings Chaucer Fine Arts Inc.

Polite Society: Arthur Devis 1712-1787

National Portrait Gallery

The Architect's Handmaid: Paint colour in the 18th century interior

RIBA Heinz Gallery



Piper's Italian and Gothic, Hafod 1939 (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff)

The overriding impression conveyed by the comprehensive exhibition of John Piper's work, staged at the Tate Gallery...

artist, are familiar images which have national resonance, but the studies of the Sitwell family home, Renshaw Hall...

One of the attractions of Marcello Viollante's gallery at 45 Pimlico Road, Chaucer Fine Arts Inc., is its unpretentious, domestic scale...

Sulprice) and so his Capriccio of Ruins with figures in the exhibition is of considerable interest...

Television Talking tedium

Malvinas: A Story of Betrayals (Channel 4) opened with film of the Argentinian soldiers on the Falkland Islands...

Gary Dartnall is in the front row of those watching the renaissance of the British film industry. And he is ready to join in the success

Mining gold from the silver screen

In a vast, anonymous office Gary Dartnall is fighting to join the ever-expanding ranks of the saviours of the British film industry...



Gary Dartnall: "We've got to make films we believe in here"

But why should this company, with its unhappy recent history of film production and as one of the prime sufferers from the decline of cinema...

should make British films. There's a wealth of talent in England which has been exploited by the American companies for years...

Please send a little Christmas cheer

Barnardo's needs to find the money to help over 9,000 needy children next year. Needy means disturbed, distressed, handicapped or any one of a hundred ills...

Why not cut out and send the tag below to a friend for his or her Christmas tree.

Advertisement for Barnardo's featuring a large 'HOORAY!' graphic and a tag for sending Christmas cheer. The tag includes the Barnardo's logo and contact information for donations.

Advertisement for the Royal Shakespeare Company's musical 'Poppo', described as 'AN UNMISSABLE TREAT' and 'A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE'. It is being performed at the Adelphi Theatre.

Advertisement for the Royal Opera House production of Massenet's 'Esclarmonde', featuring Joan Sutherland. The ad includes a photo of her in a dark, ornate dress and lists the cast and conductor.

THE TIMES DIARY

Frankly speaking

Sir Frank Cooper, until his retirement last year Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and scourge of the Treasury...

Downing thumbs

The 1982 undergraduate Christmas dinner at Downing College, Cambridge, became a little too lively for the college's governing body...

Iran Air has so many passengers during the Haj pilgrimage that it has to borrow pilots from other airlines.

Shot to ribbons

The Duke of Edinburgh has a reputation for using fairly robust language to state his case.

Sans Santa

Thought for the Day, a programme which transmits an early-morning moral message on Irish radio...

Oh, Kaye!

A circular has gone out asking concert promoters to note that Michael Kaye is no longer general administrator of the South Bank...



Barry Fantoni

Slabbed off

St George's Chapel, Windsor, is raising £5,000 by selling off its eighteenth century stone floor to Americans at £15 a slab.

Who was Who

After my report on Friday that Garry Allighan, the former Labour MP for Gravesend, still enjoys an entry in Who's Who...

Bombshell-proof?

The Moroccan News Agency is perplexing military experts. It reports from Bangkok that the Soviet Union has delivered important military hardware to Vietnam...

Partners - not just allies

by Richard Holme

How fares the partnership between Liberals and Social Democrats which came so near breakthrough, and yet so far from power, six months ago?

Despite some impressive parliamentary performances, particularly from the new Alliance MPs, and mildly encouraging local election results, the sad truth is that the Alliance team has yet to leave base camp for the final assault on the bastion of the two-party system.

Is it just an electoral technique, a presentational gimmick, or is it the organizing centre of the new politics? Is it temporary or permanent?

Any successful organization needs to know its purpose and direction and communicate them to its members.

wait to see the back of each other. Fortunately only a handful of activists take this view and it is hardly found at all among the mass membership of the voters.

The second position is separatist. A separatist argues like this: "The Alliance exists and at this stage it is best to my party. So let's repeat it for the next election on the same basis."

Like the embrace of a society hostess, the separatist relationship is to consist of being held stiffly at arm's length while being pecked on the cheek.

This robustly "party first" view is held by some senior figures in the Alliance who seized on the "No merger now" decision of the conferences to justify their belief in parallel but separate development.

But if both parties proceed out of fear, competing apprehensively with each other,

they will have constructed a zero-sum game. The goodwill and enthusiasm at the heart of voluntary political activity, and particularly of the Alliance, will simply leak away, leaving two small parties and a tragic lost opportunity behind.

An integrationist strategy, in which the parties were set on convergent courses, would have great advantages. As the prospect of shared success grew, the fear of being swallowed up would become an irrelevance.

It has been said that the job of politicians is to find out what is going on and put a name to it. What is going on in the Alliance is a coming together of millions of people with the common goal of progressive policies and government reform.

Richard Holme is a former president of the Liberal Party.

Olive branch or playing for time?

A foreign diplomat in Managua was asked the other day what new gesture Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas could make to defuse the sharp hostility of the Reagan administration to their Marxist regime.

Yet recent events in Washington and Managua, culminating in Nicaragua's announcement last Sunday of national elections in 1985, do raise legitimate questions about what the Americans really wish to achieve in their dealings with the first victorious liberation movement in Latin America since Fidel Castro came to power.

The president's gambit diplomacy has undoubtedly achieved results in Nicaragua. The US invasion of Grenada put the fear of God into the Sandinistas.

With the fragile economy reeling under the cost of fighting the US-backed "contras" - counter-revolutionaries - massing near the Honduran frontier, and Nicaragua's Cuban allies making it clear they would not intervene in the event of an American invasion, the leadership was badly off balance.

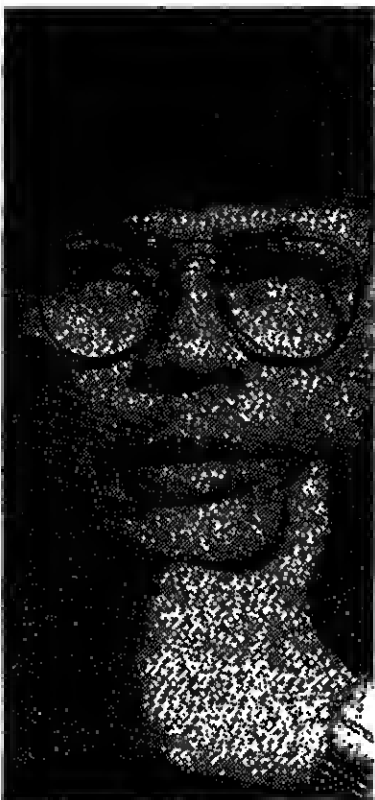
The first clear indication of Nicaragua's desire to appease Washington is the departure over the past week or so of a significant number of Cubans working with the government. The Sandinistas are acutely aware that Reagan's principal justification for the Grenada invasion - the "Cubanization" of the island - could be applied far more easily to their country.

The Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, forcing ground for the French elite, has become the scene of political and academic conflict.

Instead, despite strenuous protests from the opposition parties in Parliament and the ENA graduates' association, their qualification for entering this prestige institute was based on a minimum eight years as trade union officials or local government representatives.

Graduates of the ENA form a powerful old-boy network among France's political leaders, at the top levels of government ministries, in the diplomatic service, and in the public and private sectors of industry.

In September 1981 President Mitterrand introduced a plan to "democratize" the institution; his project was the subject of long and heated debates in Parliament and culminated in a law of January 19, 1983 instituting a third competition alongside the existing two (external and internal) for entry.



Tomas Borge: credited with the shift to a more conciliatory policy but denied a visa to visit Washington

The Cuban military advisers training Nicaragua's powerful armed forces - 200 say the Sandinistas, 2,000 according to the US - are, of course, far more important in Washington's eyes.

At the same time, it appears that the Nicaraguans would welcome the speedy departure of Salvadoran guerrilla representatives who have been based in and around Managua for several years.

American military sources in the region have long had their doubts about this, but the presence of guerrilla leaders in Nicaragua clearly provides a potential target for US reprisals.

The regime's sharp confrontation with the influential Catholic hierarchy in Nicaragua, reported in The Times last month, also seems to have gone off the back of the moment at least Government leaders, who were lambasting senior



The US government's verbal assault on the Sandinistas has made effective use of their failure to hold free elections promised "soon" after the overthrow of the detested regime of Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

There are legitimate doubts about how free opposition parties will fight the campaign, but any election requirements which provide the "democratization" which Mr Reagan has said repeatedly is the most cherished US objective in Nicaragua.

Much has also been made in Washington of the Sandinistas' repeated clashes with Nicaragua's only real opposition newspaper, La Prensa, and with the bishops of the Catholic church.

Back in August, announcing the establishment of his naval task force off Nicaragua, Mr Reagan let it be known that he thought it would be "extremely difficult" ever to come to terms with the present Sandinista government.

Philip Jacobson

A sharp attack of mal de meritocracy

80, while the number earmarked for the internal competition - open to established civil servants up to the age of 36 - has been increased from 64 to 72.

Pierre Laborey, the official in the civil service department responsible for implementing the new reform, has stated: "The ENA must be opened up. Students at present come from privileged backgrounds, and must have attended the same school (ie the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques) before entering. Students from more modest backgrounds, who do not possess this book-learning but who have a knowledge of real life, should be admitted."

The news that 40 of the 47 candidates had strong socialist or communist party affiliations provoked an immediate reaction: the ENA graduates' association held an extraordinary general meeting on October 6 and by an overwhelming

majority dismissed the association's committee for not resisting with enough vigour the introduction of the new competition. It also decided to hold a referendum to test the views of all former students of the school.

At the same time, the number of candidates for the third competition, at almost the same time the interviews for the 47 candidates were taking place at the ENA: 10 candidates, of whom eight are known to hold strong socialist or communist views, were declared successful.

James Coveney

The author is Professor of French at the University of Bath.

Duncan Campbell

Sheltering behind a wall of silence

Ever since the invention of the hydrogen bomb, civil defence in Britain has been intimately linked to defence policy and the nuclear deterrent - a link heavily stressed by the present Government when it began planning for new statutory civil defence duties to be imposed on local authorities.

The Greater London Council and its advisers believe the new civil defence regulations to be ill-drafted, contradictory, and aimed primarily at misleading the public about the risks of nuclear war.

As a "nuclear free zone" authority, the GLC continues to believe that the only sane defence against war is determinedly to campaign for the preservation of peace. The GLC requires to shield Londoners from the grotesque horror of future war, will carry out its legal responsibilities. But in nuclear war, can the capital city and its people actually be defended in the way the Government proposes? And does the duty to plan lie only on the councils on whom the new law is imposed?

No. If there is a duty, it belongs also to central government departments, which should provide the critical information on the risks and effects of war around which plans may be formulated. The GLC first began seeking the necessary information from the Government more than a year ago.

Senior Sandinistas made a point of attending a reception for two Venezuelan bishops in Managua last week, a which the Nicaraguan prelates were among the guests of honour. The regime is also making conciliatory noises about its dealings with the country's Miskito Indian minority, which church leaders have severely criticized in the past.

Is it all mere window-dressing, a cynical manoeuvre for time by the Sandinistas during a period of great vulnerability? The Reagan administration still seems to think so. The State Department declared last week "We have no real evidence that the Sandinistas have changed their basic philosophy towards human rights and the expression of views by internal opponents."

The word in Washington is that the president's most hawkish aides persuaded him, over State Department misgivings, to block the visa as a way of showing the Sandinistas that the US means business and expects further concessions.

It would be a grave mistake to misinterpret our recent flexibility as a sign of weakness. Tomas Borge, who is generally considered to have been behind the regime's recent shift towards conciliation.

Then came the communists with their deafening propaganda. To left was added "communist", and to right "fascist". And the extraordinary thing was that it worked!

The effect of this is to obscure the real similarity between those purposes. Fascism and communism both attempt to create a mass popular movement, and a state bound together under the rule of a single party, in which there will be total cohesion about a common goal.

Both demand the elimination of opposition, by whatever means, and the replacement of ordered dispute between parties by clandestine "discussion" within the ruling elite. Both involve taking control ("in the name of the people") of the means of communication and education, and both involve subjecting the entire economy to a central command. Both movements regard law as defensible, and constitutional constraints as largely irrelevant, far both are essentially "revolutionary", governed by an iron discipline.

Fully realized, fascism and communism are forms of military government, involving the permanent mobilization of the entire populace, which can no longer perform even the most peaceful-seeming activities eating, walking, praying or meeting, except in a spirit of war. There is a difference however. Whereas fascist governments have come to power with excessive popular support, and occasionally renounced power in favour of constitutional government, communist governments have almost always gained power by a coup d'etat, and have never peacefully relinquished it.

Such facts destroy the two equations which are so fundamental to current journalism: "fascist = far right"; "communist = far left". Far more pernicious than these equations, however, has been the reasoning of those who hold that the "far right" is to be identified in terms of specific "fascist" attitudes - in particular, attitudes towards race and national identity. This disease of the intellect, which puts the "free association of ideas" in place of argument, leads to such absurd conclusions as that the National Front is "on the extreme right". It also leads to the idea that politicians who advocate immigration controls, repatriation, or whatever are to the "right" of those who do not. Since this reasoning is almost invariably conducted by those for whom it is morally impossible to be on the right, it has the effect of closing the mind to all rational discussion of one of our most important political problems.

Let us change the subject. There is a distinction which is far more important and far more pertinent to our current political situation than that between "left" and "right". This is the distinction between governments which recognize opposition and those which do not. That is the distinction that aligns, for example, Nicaragua with the Soviet Union, and Turkey with the West. For us, the major purpose of politics is to make opposition possible, by providing the framework within which it can be accommodated and where possible resolved. For them, the first purpose of politics is to root out opposition and silence it, to achieve that "unity" about a common purpose which is equally the goal of fascism and communism, and which sets each movement at variance, not only with constitutional government, but also with itself.

Roger Scruton

Left, right: putting things straight

In the French Estates General of 1789, the nobility sat on the King's right, and the "third estate" on his left. Probably nothing else that those troublesome people did has proved more damaging. Henceforth left and right were to name the two exclusive and exhaustive political options.

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THE LEBANESE RATCHET

The conflict in Lebanon escalated dangerously during the week-end. For the first time United States and Syrian forces were involved directly in hostilities with each other. On Saturday, American reconnaissance planes encountered a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire from Syrian positions. On Sunday US naval aircraft attacked the Syrian anti-aircraft batteries. Two were shot down, and one of the pilots is now a prisoner in Syrian hands. On Sunday night another eight US Marines were killed in Beirut by shells fired by Syria's Druze allies, and US ships replied by shelling Druze positions.

American spokesmen were saying yesterday that it was up to Syria's President Assad how far the violence went. One must hope that means they were prepared to regard the score as even, after Sunday's exchanges, and not to embark on further retaliation without further provocation. Both sides should by now have demonstrated to each other their unwillingness to be driven from their present positions by force. There should now be a further attempt at a negotiated solution.

The Americans believe they have strengthened their negotiating position by reaching last week's strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, since the threat of Israel fighting an all-out war against Syria in Lebanon is more credible than the threat of the United States doing so. But this is questionable. Israel's will and ability to fight when her own security is threatened are not in doubt, but so far neither her leaders nor her people have been convinced that their security depends on evicting the Syrians from Lebanon by force. Israel may share the broad aims of American policy in Lebanon, but

a threat to use Israeli force to achieve those aims, or to defend American troops, is not obviously more credible than threat to use American force. At the moment the Americans are trying to have it both ways. They want Syria to believe that they have Israeli force at their disposal, and at the same time they want the rest of us to believe that they are acting impartially and independently in Lebanon and not colluding with Israel. President Reagan may indeed be telling the truth when he says that he was not informed or consulted about the Israeli air strikes on Saturday; but, given that these occurred just after Mr Shamir got back from Washington with the strategic cooperation agreement in his pocket, Mr Reagan can hardly be surprised if his remarks encountered widespread disbelief.

The avowed purpose of the American military presence in Lebanon is to help the Lebanese government recover full sovereignty over Lebanese territory and secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces. By now it is generally recognized that this task is inseparable from the settlement of political differences among Lebanese factions. A month ago a conference assembled in Geneva for this purpose and agreed, surprisingly quickly, that the immediate stumbling-block was the Israeli-Lebanese accord of May 17. The Syrians wanted it torn up, the Israelis wanted it applied. Neither could be satisfied without ensuring that the other would remain in occupation of the country.

Accordingly, the conference agreed on a compromise of the ragged but practical type which used to keep Lebanon going in the old days and might yet get it going again if outsiders would

give it half a chance. The agreement would be neither abrogated nor ratified as it stood. Instead, President Gemayel was deputed to seek outside help in getting it revised so as to remove the political clauses which the Syrians most object to while ensuring that Israel got what it most wants: security for its northern border.

The Syrians signalled their interest in this compromise. Preparations had been made to receive President Gemayel in Damascus with considerable ceremony when President Assad's appendix - or, as many believe, some other part of his anatomy - intervened. Twice since then he and his foreign minister have used the word "revise" in reference to the May 17 accord. But the Israelis have been less accommodating, insisting on the accord, the whole accord and nothing but the accord. Publicly the Americans have stood by them, and President Gemayel, reaching Washington last week on Mr Shamir's heels, was apparently told that no amendment was possible.

If that is the last word, rather than a hard negotiating position, the chances of the Geneva conference reconvening to any purpose are slim indeed. But the Americans still talk of a negotiated solution. The Syrians have yet to show convincingly that they are genuinely interested in one. When, but only when, they do, it will be up to the Americans to use their new relationship with Israel to insist on a more flexible Israeli attitude.

It is necessary to prove to the Syrians that they cannot have things in Lebanon all their own way. But it is necessary also to convince them that they have something to gain by letting the process of national reconciliation go ahead.

MAKE WAY FOR OTHERS

After all the torrents of words poured out in the controversy over conveyancing, in the form of speeches, diatribes, manifestos, submissions to royal commissions and even counsels' arguments in the lawsuits seeking to protect the solicitors' effective monopoly, the House Buyers Bill appears a remarkably brief and simple document. Mr Austin Mitchell's private member's measure seeks to cut the knot in a mere four pages and six clauses. Given that the sale and purchase of their homes are the largest personal transactions that most people ever undertake, with disastrous consequences if they should go wrong, the Bill may seem almost cursory. That is because cutting a knot is in itself quite a simple thing to do: the Bill leaves to the Secretary of State and the Director General of Fair Trading the details of providing safeguards to the customer. But unless the Bill's promoters can provide clear indications that satisfactory safeguards are feasible, then the knot had better stay tied.

The present Director General has made it clear that he favours radical changes to the solicitors' monopoly, so it appears that he is confident. The central factor in the Bill's proposals is a licensing system to ensure that the conveyancer is covered by effective arrangements guaranteeing that, even if he hangs the

job or is dishonest, his clients may be fully compensated. Solicitors are compulsorily covered by a scheme of this kind. In addition, the Bill contains a number of proposals to speed the process of transfer, and one to enable solicitors to advertise their terms for conveyancing (since the abolition of scale fees, these have diverged widely, and the public have little choice of comparing prices).

The whole process of sale is generally acknowledged to be unnecessarily slow, complicated and costly today. Conveyancing agents claim that they can do the job for half the average price that solicitors charge. The lawyers protest, not without some justice, that individual dilatoriness by solicitors is not one of the most important factors causing delay. They are in a less strong position to claim that their profession has done all it might have done in recent years to press for reforms to improve the process. Even Sir Henry Benson, chairman of the royal commission which reported in 1979 that relaxing present restrictions would be undesirable, told the profession this summer that the lack of progress in pursuing the improvements proposed in his report weakened the profession's case.

The royal commission made curiously heavy weather of the

whole matter. It rejected ending the monopoly partly on the grounds that equivalent safeguards would mean equivalent overheads, so that new competition would not hold down charges. But in fact conveyancing charges do not reflect the associated overheads, for a reason which enables solicitors to claim that the practice works in the public interest. Conveyancing provides on average half of solicitors' incomes - more than that for those who do not practice in lucrative specialist fields. Conveyancing enables the profession to cross-subsidize its other more demanding work. If competition brought charges down to cost, it is claimed, legal services in some parts of the country would dwindle, and members of the public in need of them would suffer.

This kind of argument can be a valid defence of a practice in restraint of trade. But the burden of proof lies with the defectors. It has to be shown that it really is in the public interest for house-buyers to subsidize litigants. If it is right to subsidize litigants it seems better that it should be done by means designed to that end, rather than by roundabout methods. If Parliament is satisfied with the proposals to protect the interests of house-buyers, then it would do well to enact the Bill and take the protestations of the solicitors with a pinch of salt.

CHURCH AND NATION IN LITHUANIA

The brutal murder of several priests in El Salvador by political extremists has rightly been condemned throughout the world. Less well publicized is the fate of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania, one of the three small Baltic countries which, having won their independence from Russia in 1918, were forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1940 after Stalio had concluded his notorious pact with Hitler. Father Sigitas Tamkevicius went on trial in Vilnius last week, accused of "systematically slandering in his sermons the Soviet political and social system".

In fact his principal offence was that in November 1978 with four other priests he established the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, which has documented the persecution of the church by the atheist regime. The indictment stated that the materials which Father Tamkevicius circulated reached the West and were broadcast back to the USSR by the US financed radio stations Liberty and Free Europe, as well as Radio Vatican. Tass alleges that "foreign special services engaged in subversive activity against the USSR paid attention to this vain and money-loving man" but the reliable Lithuanian *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* reports that it was the KGB which tried unsuccessfully, on several occasions

to recruit him with promises of a good parish and an opportunity to study in Rome.

He was arrested last May after speaking in defence of Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, a fellow member of the Catholic Committee who was sentenced after a three-day trial to seven years in strict regime labour camp plus three years' internal exile; he had already been sentenced to two years in 1946 for links with "nationalist bandits". Those protesting outside the court - and casual passers-by who happened to be on Levo Avenue - were removed by police.

Hundreds of Lithuanian priests have suffered persecution and imprisonment by the Soviet authorities, who regard the church as providing leadership for a mass opposition which combines religious faith and nationalism in a powerful rejection of Moscow-imposed atheist rule. Some 50,000 Lithuanians risked family and career by appealing to the government to drop criminal proceedings against Father Svarinskas. Those petitions which reach the West expose as a myth the Soviet propaganda that the Baltic countries are content to be part of the USSR. One protest petition recently submitted by Lithuanians to Moscow carried 148,000 signatures.

Father Bronius Laurinavicius, known for his courageous letter sent to the Soviet leadership in

October 1977 in which he condemned enforced atheism and Russification, was a member of the Lithuanian group for monitoring the observance of the Helsinki agreements. On 21 November 1981 the local party newspaper *Tiesa* published a virulent attack on him; four days later he was killed by a truck on a Vilnius street. Eyewitnesses reported that he had been pushed in front of the lorry. The Chronicle claims that he was murdered by KGB agents, and reports also the deaths of two other priests, officially said to have been killed in the course of "robberies". Yet nothing was stolen.

In April of this year Vatican Radio broadcast the prayer of Pope John Paul II that the "Lithuanian nation should be able to express its faith in total religious freedom". In July President Reagan issued a statement which was officially delivered to the Secretary General of the United Nations; it cited Resolution 1541 of the General Assembly, dealing with self-determination, and upheld the right repeatedly demanded by the Baltic peoples that they be allowed to decide their own political status under the auspices of the UN. Britain too refuses *de jure* recognition to Soviet rule in the Baltic states, which should be regarded as a test for Moscow's good faith in UN negotiations over Afghanistan and other trouble spots.

Doubts about the polygraph test

From the President of the National Association of Head Teachers and the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers. Sir, Your editorial, "Protecting the fourth arm" (November 30) presents a well balanced review of the arguments for and against the use of the polygraph as a security screening device in the Civil Service.

You conclude, however, that because of the introduction of the polygraph the controllers of the Russian Secret Service will find it "just that bit more difficult to place and run agents in Whitehall". This conclusion is, I believe, dangerously wrong.

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) of the United States Congress has just published a review of polygraph screening. In addition to the general conclusion that the available research evidence does not establish the scientific validity of the polygraph test for personnel security screening, the OTA makes two specific points. The first is that there is evidence to suggest that counter-measures can be used by trained spies to beat polygraph screening. Because there will be a temptation to regard someone who passes a polygraph test as one hundred per cent safe, the test could lead to a completely false sense of security.

The second is that because the polygraph test's inaccuracy leads to many perfectly innocent subjects being wrongly suspected, this will result in the security investigating officers spending valuable time in following up false leads.

Far from making it more difficult for spies to penetrate GCHQ, M15 and M16, the introduction of polygraph screening may therefore cause a misdirection of the already overstretched resources of the security agencies. At the same time, taking and passing a polygraph test could well become the spy's ticket to a successful Civil Service career.

Yours faithfully, GERRY GILLMAN, General Secretary, Society of Civil and Public Servants, 124/130 Southwark Street, SE1, November 30.

Importance of Delhi

From Sir Fraser Noble. Sir, In your editorial (Bridge-building in Delhi, November 22) you speculate on the reasons for the continuing existence of this curious, yet increasingly important institution, the Commonwealth. You mention the Sovereign and the legacy of British law and democratic practice.

It is strange that you do not also emphasize the influence of the British system of higher education, as the symbol of which in this context I would choose the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Anyone who has observed the impact of its work will appreciate a very good practical reason for the sturdy good health of the association of Commonwealth nations. With the general warm of your comments I am in total agreement - not least with your hopes for the return of Pakistan to the fellowship.

Yours faithfully, FRASER NOBLE, Hedgesley, Victoria Street, Nairn, November 22.

Oxford admissions

From Professor Ronald Mellor. Sir, Professor Lloyd-Jones has long regarded it as his pastoral duty to explain America to the British and Britain to Americans. I recall his letter to the *New York Times* in summer, 1980, in which he assured his readers that European intellectuals had the highest regard for the mental capacities of candidate Reagan.

Now, in a recent letter (November 14) concerning new admissions procedures at Oxford, he alludes to the "American experience" of a decline in standards following the abolition of entrance examinations and their replacement by national tests.

I am afraid the Regius Professor is once again mistaken. No such examinations have been administered by individual American universities since 1950, to many cases never. And in the pre-war era, there was little selectivity even at the most elite colleges and universities; those who could pay the fees were usually admitted.

Research into examination results

From the President of the National Association of Head Teachers and the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers. Sir, Your comments on comprehensive education and the Department of Education and Science (leading article, December 1) are a little less than fair and considerably less so than we would expect from *The Times*.

It is for the Secretary of State to speak up for his staff, given the constitutional limitation on their freedom to respond to public criticism. We would hope that he does so with alacrity. We say this not because we agree with all that the department says and does, but because we believe that public servants should not be pilloried without a proper defence by their accurate published heads.

Your leader follows very similar lines to an article by Baroness Cox and Dr John Marks, of the National Council for Educational Standards (*The Times*, November 17) rather gratuitously headed, "Beware the classroom sneaks". You share with them a view of the department which does not accord with our experience over very many years and we are at a loss to understand why this vituperation is taking place. It is perfectly understandable, of course, that Baroness Cox and Dr Marks should feel disappointed, for the Secretary of State has refused them public funding for research into examination results. Disappointed they might be, but they can scarcely be surprised that the wester of published criticisms of their work and the very pertinent observations on it made by the head of the DES statistics branch - details of which have now been released by the Secretary of State.

The reason why the DES has been involved in the work of the NCS is because that body sought public funding and has, therefore, very properly had its work scrutinised by statisticians within the department.

The result of that scrutiny has apparently satisfied the Secretary of State for in rejecting the NCS funding application he said:

I have decided for the time being not to commit further public funds to work in the area of examination statistics. Analyses of the performance (by reference to public examination results) of different types of school and different types of school system, I need time to study the methodological state of the art before I can make a sufficiently confident judgement about which questions are researchable and, most important for me, answerable in a way which will be of practical assistance to the holder of my office in exercising his responsibilities. The repeated and, to date, unanswered criticisms of a wide range of educational researchers.

In Central America

From Dr Victor Bulmer-Thomas. Sir, The interest in and concern for Central America expressed by three leading politicians such as Healey, Owen and Steel (November 30) is welcome indeed. Their support, however, for the Contadora group's proposals requires some qualifications, since the impression is given that United States' backing for the proposals would lower regional tension considerably.

The experience of the first 18 months after the fall of Somoza suggests that the USA could live with a left-wing, even Marxist, regime in Nicaragua. What the present US Administration appears unable to accept is the possible combination of a Sandinista government in Nicaragua and a guerrilla victory in El Salvador, their reasons for "not being the line" in El Salvador are complex but for present purposes can be taken as given.

The Contadora group consists of three countries (Panama, Colombia and Venezuela) which strongly support the US-backed Magas in El Salvador and one country (Mexico) which regards the revolutionary opposition (FDR) as a representative political force. The Mexican government, however, has back-pedalled considerably on the FDR question since the election as president of Miguel de la Madrid. Furthermore, Venezuela is widely suspected of having trained Salvadorean troops in counter-insurgency techniques and the Colombian government is known to fear the consequences of a guerrilla victory in El Salvador on its own fragile democracy.

It is most improbable, therefore, that the Contadora group would preside over a negotiating process in Central America leading to an FDR victory. For that reason, US support for the group's proposals should not be regarded as a test of new US initiatives towards Central America; indeed, Richard Stone, President Reagan's roving ambassador in Central America, spoke in very favourable terms of the Contadora group's proposals last month.

In the longer run, the Contadora group may well have a role to play in reducing regional tension. In the short run, however, the highest priority must be given to ending the war of attrition against the Sandinista government. Even if implemented, the Contadora group's proposals would not necessarily curb the activities of the Nicaraguan "contras" that task can only be achieved through concerted pressure by US and international public opinion on Congress and the Reagan Administration.

Yours faithfully, VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS, Queen Mary College, University of London, Department of Economics, Mile End Road, E1, December 1.

Way of the Cross

From Prebendary J. C. de la T. Davies. Sir, Thank you for printing a large extract from the Archbishop of York's Entreatment sermon and for your provocative leading article, "The way of the Cross" (November 21). I rise to the bait.

Jesus commanded us to express our faith in two ways, saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself".

The private love of God was well expressed in your leader; the public aspect of it Jesus taught by example. We read in Luke, ch 4, v 16, that he went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath day as the regularly did. The public expression of our love for God is feeble today, the Archbishop was right to emphasise its importance.

Letters to the Editor

seem to accord closely with the professional views expressed to the Secretary of State. Instead of answering these specific criticisms and providing the raw data which would permit other researchers to repeat the study and verify its results (the standard procedure in such matters) the NCS authors chose to attack those within the Department of Education and Science who are unable to answer back.

That *The Times* has proceeded in like fashion is a matter for great regret as is your apparent determination to entrench our comprehensive schools in the face of growing evidence of their success.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SWALLOW, President, National Association of Head Teachers.

FRED JARVIS, General Secretary, National Union of Teachers, As from: Hamilton House, Mableton Place, WC1, December 2.

From Lady Cox and Dr John Marks. Sir, We must correct one serious misrepresentation in Mr Giles Radice's letter (December 3) concerning the DES's retraction of its criticisms of our report, *Standards in English Schools*, published by the National Council for Educational Standards (NCS).

The current situation is that, at a meeting on November 23, the chief DES statistician, Mr Wakefield, and his colleagues admitted that they had been in error in their earlier assessment of the NCS research. The resulting unprecedented statement from the DES on November 28 makes it clear that, contrary to some press reports, the DES does not regard our research as "seriously flawed" and that the DES welcomes the pioneering work on examination results undertaken by NCS and the advice given by us to parents and others on how to interpret examination results.

The letter containing the criticisms to which Mr Radice refers was written more than a month before the DES statement and has been superseded by it.

It would be helpful if the Chief Opposition spokesman on education would ensure that his statements do not confuse issues by putting events out of sequence.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MARKS, National Council for Educational Standards, 3 Amellon House, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9, December 3.

From Mr R. H. Hammond. Sir, I refer to the excellent suggestion by Mr John Wilkinson, MP, and Mr Cyril Taylor in their letter to *The Times* (December 1) that the GLC should be replaced by a statutory London Boroughs Forum to take over most of its functions, having power to levy a rate precept and composed of representatives chosen by the London boroughs from amongst their councillors.

But why not call the new authority the Greater London Council and provide for direct representation of and accountability to, the electorate? Yours faithfully, R. H. HAMMOND, Sandalwood, 4 Margard Lane, Church Hill, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset.

House Buyers Bill

From Ms Jane Bradley. Sir, Mr Peter de la Cour and (December 2) how the public will be protected by the activities of the proposed licensed conveyancers.

There is a simple answer, which is similar to the protection afforded the public against negligent acts of solicitors, i.e. indemnity insurance. The public, in fact, may be better protected by employing the services of a licensed conveyancer, since presumably he will only obtain insurance on proof of a sound practical experience, whereas a solicitor obtains his indemnity by virtue of his title of solicitor.

Yours faithfully, JANE BRADLEY, 7 Avenue Gardens, Acton, W3, December 2.

Children's families

From the Dean of Durham. Sir, I have a hunch that two-parent families can contribute more, humanly speaking, to the nurture of children than one-parent families, not because two can do the same job more efficiently than one, but because a close, caring and creative relationship between father and mother will provide a growing child with the best resource and example for learning to make similar relationships in later life.

However, Penny Perriek refers in her article "How the other half lives" (November 21), to research carried out by the National Council for One Parent Families, according to which "there is no evidence at all to show that a child being brought up by a lone parent is less able to grow up into a whole person than one from a two-parent family".

On the other hand, only a few pages earlier in an article "Divorce in Britain", John Witherow informs us that "American research has found that as a result [of their parents' separation] younger children are likely to have a greater dependence on the mother, and older ones often show signs of withdrawal and aggression".

Is my "hunch" a reliable kind of commonsense intuition, or is it merely residual dogmatic prejudice? And how am I to know? Yours faithfully, PETER BAELZ, The Deanery, Durham, November 21.

Taking the place of the GLC

From Mr I. G. Murray.

Sir, In its haste to abolish the GLC the Government is surely in danger of throwing out a large number of babies with the bathwater and not only the Historic Buildings Division.

Some unitary form of administration which reflects London's position as a capital city with interests beyond those of its constituent boroughs is essential and I would therefore support Mr Wilkinson and Mr Taylor (December 1) in urging the formation of a statutory body of elected members nominated by the boroughs with responsibilities for services essential to London as a whole.

May I, however, also draw attention to one institution of London-wide significance which ought to survive virtually in its present form, namely the Greater London Record Office. Reference to it in the White Paper is so brief and non-committal ("special provisions will be made") as to suggest that the Government is hardly aware of its existence, let alone its present functions.

The GLRO is one of the country's major archive repositories, with an enormous fund of experience and expertise, and has in addition recently received major capital investment in the form of new premises and equipment. As well as the records of the old London and Middlesex County Councils and their predecessors it contains those of statutory bodies within the Greater London area and other records of major importance.

It is thus the primary record office for London as a whole, widely used by students and researchers from all over the world and familiar to all those concerned with the history of London.

For these reasons, its break-up would be ill-advised to say the least and the distribution of its contents amongst other offices, as the authors of the White Paper may have in mind, widely impracticable from every point of view. Who, in any case, is going to look after the records produced by the GLC itself and those of the 15 joint boards and committees which are apparently going to replace it?

I hope very much that the Government will reflect seriously upon this issue, as indeed they should upon many other aspects of their plans for London. Yours faithfully, I. G. MURRAY, 11 Coolhurst Road, N8, December 3.

From Mr R. H. Hammond

Sir, I refer to the excellent suggestion by Mr John Wilkinson, MP, and Mr Cyril Taylor in their letter to *The Times* (December 1) that the GLC should be replaced by a statutory London Boroughs Forum to take over most of its functions, having power to levy a rate precept and composed of representatives chosen by the London boroughs from amongst their councillors. But why not call the new authority the Greater London Council and provide for direct representation of and accountability to, the electorate? Yours faithfully, R. H. HAMMOND, Sandalwood, 4 Margard Lane, Church Hill, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sterling bows to the almighty dollar

It would be true to say that the pound yesterday fell to its lowest level yet against the dollar when it broke through \$1.45 for the first time. It would be more meaningful to say that the dollar reached a record against the pound, for there was no noticeable weakness of sterling against other currencies.

Modest rise in wholesale prices lifts inflation hope

The prices charged by industry at the factory gate are still rising only modestly despite a more rapid increase in the cost of its fuel and raw materials, boosting government hopes that inflation may peak at no more than about 5.5 per cent next spring.

Table with 2 columns: RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT, MANUFACTURING PRODUCER PRICES. Includes data for 1981-1983 Q1 and Q3.

peaking at about 5.5 per cent in the spring. This forecast depends on a further slowdown in the rate at which unit labour costs are rising - which means smaller pay settlements and continued strong productivity growth.

BP shakes market

BP stunned the equity market yesterday by announcing it has found no oil in the Minkak project off the north coast of Alaska. Its shares tumbled 24p to 392p, wiping £450m from the group's market value.

P & O set to sell bank

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company is likely to sell its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, TCB, soon. Rumours that P & O was thinking of such a move have grown since European Ferries decided to take advantage of the increasing interest shown by leading institutions in banks and stockbrokers, and put up for sale its Singer & Friedlander banking subsidiary.

Allianz in pledge to top BAT

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company, yesterday promised to top BAT Industries' £914m bid for Eagle Star. But it stopped short of naming its price and its statement caused confusion in the stock market.



Two people have been named 1983 Businessman of the Year for the first time in the award's 13 years. Mr Peter Thompson (right), chairman and chief executive of the National Freight Consortium, shares the title with Mr Philip Harris, chairman of Harris Queensway, the carpet and DIY company.

Opec price 'could fall close to \$16'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent. Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have been warned that disunity among their members at this week's full ministerial meeting coupled with a mild winter in the US and Western Europe could send oil prices down almost to \$16 a barrel.

Moben managing director resigns

Moben Group, the kitchen, bedroom furniture and double glazing company, yesterday said that its co-founder and managing director, Mr Jim Benham, had resigned on health grounds.

US rejects Clausen's cash appeal

The Reagan Administration has turned down a 11th hour appeal from Mr A W "Tom" Clausen, President of the World Bank, for an urgently needed increase in the American commitment to subsidize aid for the poorest countries.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table listing stock exchange indices: FT Index: 742.0 up 0.7, FT All Share: 495.51 down 0.37, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table listing currency rates: LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4480 down 85pts, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table listing interest rates: Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9, Finance houses base rate 10, etc.

Dow continues lower

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks continued their moderately lower course in active early trading yesterday. The Dow-Jones industrial average fell more than 1 1/2 points, while the transportation average was down about five points.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unmanned oil platform goes ahead

BP has decided to develop the South East Forties oilfield in the North Sea using an unmanned, satellite platform connected to the existing Forties A complex. The project will cost \$400m, \$60m more than its planned seabed production facility to which the Department of Energy was opposed.

Market leader Blue Circle resisting Cement prices may rise 5%

The Cement Makers' Federation is expected to increase the price of cement by about 5 per cent when its council members meet tomorrow. However, the increase is unlikely to become effective until March at the earliest, because the federation has promised users at least three months notice of a rise in prices.

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Cluff wins contract in Barbados

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Cluff Oil, the British independent oil company, has overcome competition from several US companies to win a sole seismic survey licence from the Barbados Government and the Barbados National Oil Company.

The area for survey covers 468 square miles in relatively deep water and is considered to have several potential oil-bearing areas.

An initial survey has identified one huge area with possible hydrocarbon traces. Cluff will start surveying in the New Year.

Mr Algy Cluff, the company chairman, said yesterday that other companies would be offered the chance to farm into the area if oil discoveries were made.

Barbados and the other Caribbean countries have been hoping to find oil in their offshore areas to reduce their dependence on traditional industries such as sugar and bauxite mining.

Inflation fell to 5 per cent in January and is expected to fluctuate about this level until the end of next year. After that, a continuation of the policy of steadily reducing the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement should reduce inflation and inflationary expectations further to 2 or 3 per cent by 1986 or 1987.

To reduce inflation from more than 10 per cent to 5 per cent with still further reductions in prospect is a notable achievement.

It is now widely recognized that such success creates a major problem for monetary management. Monetary economists are agreed that as inflation falls, the demand for money can be expected to rise as a ratio of the national income. In a celebrated article Prof. Milton Friedman suggested, arbitrarily, that the ratio of the demand for money to the money national income might rise from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

The rationale for this increase in the demand for money is that once prices are stable, workers and companies will cease to lose a tenth of the real value of their notes and current accounts annually. They will therefore be more ready to hold cash at each income level.

With faster inflation and the higher nominal interest rates which generally accompany it, workers and companies can gain by minimizing their cash balances and buying consumer goods, real assets or shares as early as possible to avoid unnecessarily large bank deposits.

Hence it is generally agreed that desired cash balances will be higher (in relation to the national income) the lower the rate of inflation and the lower the rate of interest.

There are parallel arguments to explain why workers and companies will also hold larger deposit accounts (in relation to the national income) with lower inflation and interest rates.

This raises a major obstacle to the Government's plans to reduce inflation by monetary means. Suppose, to take Prof. Friedman's example, that reducing inflation from 10 per cent to zero raises the demand for money by 20 per cent.

When inflation is 10 per cent the money supply will be expanding by perhaps 12 per cent a year, with the assumption of 2 per cent output growth while when inflation is zero, the money supply expands at only about 2 per cent, so the Government must cut the rate

Walter Eltis investigates the dilemma that may soon be facing the Chancellor

When falling inflation creates a new monetary trap



Walter Eltis (left) and Professor Milton Friedman: a sudden fall in inflation would increase the demand for money.

of monetary growth from 12 per cent to 2 per cent.

But when inflation is zero the demand for money might be 20 per cent higher (as a ratio of the national income) so the Government must also ensure that while it is reducing the rate of growth of the money supply from 12 per cent to 2 per cent, it is at the same time increasing the supply of money 20 per cent faster than the national income.

Other estimates suggest that a reduction in inflation from 10 per cent to zero, which reduces interest rates from, say, 13 per cent to 3 per cent, would raise the demand for money (in relation to the national income) by as much as 40 per cent. In that event the Government would have to contrive to raise the money supply 40 per cent faster than the national income while cutting the rate of monetary growth from 12 per cent to 2 per cent.

Sophisticated monetary economists have been aware of this problem for some time. They say that if it is suddenly expected that inflation will fall from 10 per cent to zero, then the demand for money balances will at that very moment rise by 20 per cent (to echo Friedman's arbitrary figure).

If the Government immedi-

ately raises the money supply by 20 per cent, while still managing to retain complete credibility in its intention to raise it at only 2 per cent a year in the future, the market will get its 20 per cent of extra money.

Alternatively the bizarre idea has been proposed that at the very instant that inflationary expectations come down, prices could fall 20 per cent. The real money supply, with what money can buy, will then rise 20 per cent, and prices can be entirely stable after this sudden and unexpected price fall.

It is not possible that prices will suddenly drop at the moment inflationary expectations come down, so it is evident that the Government must create 20 per cent extra money without sacrificing the credibility of its intention to reduce subsequent monetary growth. That is indeed a difficult task, and it is in all likelihood the task Mr Lawson will soon face.

The cash-holding habits of British workers and companies are probably now adjusting to 5 per cent inflation, and they may well have the opportunity to adjust to still slower inflation in two or three years, increasing the demand for money still faster. British banks can raise the money supply fairly readily

if there is an increase in the demand for money at today's interest rates, and these gradual adjustments to slower inflation will increase the demand for bank advances to the private sector.

If this causes £M3 and PSL2, the wider measure of liquidity, to breach the target in the medium-term financial strategy, Mr Lawson may feel impelled to raise interest rates, but if his response to this natural increase in the demand for money is to choke it off, he will slow the recovery of the real economy, and raise sterling making exports less competitive.

If, however, an increase in private sector bank advances is regarded as an entirely natural response to the slow-down in inflation, and the Chancellor allows it to be met, how is he to convince domestic and international financial opinion that his inflation strategy is intact?

The first step would be to make it known that this is an entirely natural phenomenon, approved by Friedman *et al.*

But if there is a large prospective increase in £M3 in 1983-84, how is the market to distinguish between a situation where spontaneous domestic monetary expansion accelerates subsequent inflation, as in

1971-73 when the real money supply rose 36 per cent, and one where it is an inescapable element in policies to assist the recovery of the economy, as in 1931-33 when the real money supply rose 16 per cent.

The key concept here may be Prof. Knut Wicksell's *natural rate of interest*. According to this, if market rates of interest are below the natural rate, spontaneous profit maximizing banking expansion will produce inflation, while bank advances will expand at a rate which causes prices to fall if the market rate of interest is above the natural rate.

In today's terms this surely means that at low real interest rates, spontaneous private sector banking expansion will produce accelerating inflation as in 1971-72 when the London clearing banks were lending at 7 to 9 per cent while inflation was 7 per cent and rising, so that banks were able to expand their advances at a near zero real interest rate.

Growing bank advances at these unnaturally low real interest rates sent inflation shooting upwards. In 1931-32, in contrast, banks lent at 5 to 6 per cent while the price level was falling at 2½ per cent annually, so the real cost of bank advances was 7½ to 8½ per cent.

Spontaneous growth of the money supply which originated in the private sector was not inflationary at these high real interest rates.

Today the cost of bank advances is about 12 per cent, and with an inflation rate of 5 per cent, the real cost of bank advances is perhaps 7 per cent. If a large growth of spontaneous private sector bank advances without assistance from an unfunded budget deficit (for there was no government deficit in 1932) this will be no more inflationary than the rapid monetary growth of 1931-33.

It is therefore arguable that the Government can safely allow private sector loan demand to respond to any increase in the demand for money. Such expansion would be no more than a response by the private sector to the Government's success in bringing down inflation.

Credibility in the Government's intention to continue to reduce inflation will rest in a continuing reduction in the PSBR along the path set out in the medium term financial strategy.

Walter Eltis is a fellow of Exeter College, Oxford

Polly Peck (Holdings) plc Preliminary Results

for the financial period from 29th August 1982 to 3rd September 1983.

	53 weeks to 3rd Sept 1983	52 weeks to 28th August 1982
Turnover	£62,220,000	£23,921,000
Group Profit before Taxation	£24,686,000	£10,503,000
Taxation (1982 Credit)	£4,024,000	£165,000
Group Profit attributable to Shareholders	£20,662,000	£10,668,000
Dividends	£1,677,000	£666,000
Retained Profits for the period	£18,985,000	£10,002,000
Earnings per share	283.3p	146.3p

Extract from the Chairman's Statement: "The Group has completed a very successful trading year and has maintained its rapid but firmly based growth throughout, with pre-tax profits rising by 135% to £24.7m. The Company's Board is therefore recommending an increased final dividend of 19p net per share, payable on 27th February 1984 to shareholders on the register at 30th January 1984, which makes a total net dividend for the year of 28p per share."

Notes: (1) The Group has amended its accounting policy in respect of the translation of foreign currencies so that it accords with SSAP 20. The results for 1982 have been re-stated to reflect this change.

(2) The profits include the Group's share of the results of Cornell Holdings PLC in which it holds a 32.6% interest.

(3) The amount absorbed by dividends takes into account waivers on shares in respect of dividends totalling £364,696.

(4) Earnings per share have been calculated on Group profit after taxation and on 7,292,219, being the number of shares in issue during the period.

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1982/83			1983/84			1984/85			1985/86			1986/87			1987/88			1988/89		
High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff	High	Low	Diff
Authorized Unit Trusts																				
Authorized Insurance Funds																				
Insurance Bonds and Funds																				
Private Pensions																				
Other Funds																				

خذ من الاصل

Defence Ministry spurns Ada

The Ministry of Defence is to stop financing the development in Britain of the programming language that is due to become a standard requirement for American and Nato military systems from next year.

If the United States Department of Defence sticks to the current deadline for implementing the language, which is called Ada, British contractors could find themselves excluded from US or Nato computer contracts after 1984.

But most observers believe that Ada development has fallen so far behind schedule in the United States too that the DoD will have to relax the timetable for its introduction.

The problem is the unprecedented complexity of Ada and in particular of the Ada Programming Support Environment (Apse) - the immense collection of software engineering tools being developed to manage, coordinate and update Ada systems.

A group of British software houses, called the Ada Group (AGL), was working on an Apse under the sponsorship of the MoD, British Telecom, GEC and Plessey. (Telecom is involved because it hopes to adopt a standard communications programming language called Chiff which could share a support environment with Ada; the hybrid would be called Chape.)

The MoD has pulled out because its officials believed that technical problems would force the development costs of

Chape far above the £10m originally bargained for, and Telecom followed suit.

A ministry official said that government research funds should not really be used to enable British companies to compete for commercial contracts; private industry ought to be more willing to put up funds, he suggested.

In fact it would be surprising if GEC, Plessey and the major defence software houses were not taking steps to continue developing an Apse in the absence of government financial support, since the alternative would be exclusion from a

large slice of their traditional business.

The language is named after Ada Lovelace (1815-52), who is said by romantic historians, to have been the first computer programmer. Its origin was a DoD decision in 1974 to standardize on a single programming language in place of the 350 different ones used then by different contractors. This software Tower of Babel was costing the Pentagon \$3,500m a year.

No existing language could encompass all the DoD requirements (Coral 66, the real-time standard adopted by the MoD in Britain was too limited). So the Americans went through a

series of increasingly detailed specifications, concluding with the definitive version prepared by CII Honeywell Bull of France against international competition.

However, when the software industry on both sides of the Atlantic began work on compilers to make Ada run on actual computers, its size and complexity began to cause problems. The difficulties have been even worse for the software engineers building Apse on both sides of the Atlantic.

The American and Nato defence establishments are far too deeply committed to Ada to think of abandoning the standard now. But it is bound to be phased in more slowly than the DoD planners had originally hoped.

Ada still has many fans in the software industry, who believe that the language will be vindicated. They say that Ada will not only save money but also be more reliable than the confusion of languages it is replacing. During Ada's design phase, high priority was given to making Ada programs easy to read and check.

The critics claim that, on the contrary, Ada is so unwieldy and error-prone as to be less reliable than a mixture of simpler languages. The most alarming statement is attributed to Iain Barron, UK managing director of Immos. His verdict, as quoted in the trade press, was that "Ada is the most likely cause of the Third World War".

Japanese claim new leap in time cuts

A Japanese hardware manufacturer, NEC Corp, claims to have developed the world's first non-Neumann type ultra-high-speed computer writes Ross Davies.

The "Dream Computer" is said to be capable of computation up to 53 million times a second, between 50 and 100 times faster than state-of-the-art computers. The present generation of computers is based upon a model first developed in the United States in 1945 by J. von Neumann of IBM.

Time-consuming data storing and processing procedures are speeded up by NEC's small computer by automatic data searching and processing systems in two complementary units.

The Japanese further claim that their new computer can cut the time required processing a picture sent from a resource-survey satellite to three and half hours from the usual 200 to 300 hours, and this could be "several minutes" by the time such satellites is launched in 1987.

Convergent Technologies, a leading UK supplier of desktop microcomputer systems to other manufacturers, has moved into Europe by signing a major contract with Plessey Office Systems, which could be worth £20m over the next few years. Convergent workstations will be supplied as part of the Plessey IBIS Integrated Business Information System.

"Own label" agreements already exist between Convergent and such computer companies as Burroughs, NCR, Prime and several more. Last year its turnover set up to \$98.5m, from only \$13.1m in 1981.

Under the latest deal, Plessey will incorporate Convergent work-



stations in the recently announced IDX private digital exchange.

A computer design system called MOSS, developed in 1975 by three county councils as an aid to motorway design, has now been enhanced so that users can add far more detail to their drawings, writes Roger Woodrough, Applied Research of Cambridge (ARC) has announced an interface which links its General Drafting System GDS to MOSS.

The county councils which developed MOSS - Durham, Northamptonshire and West Sussex - have been responsible for managing it, although this is soon to be taken over by a commercial company, MOSS System. MOSS has been used extensively in this country and overseas for civil engineering projects such as area surveys and motorway design.

As a result of co-operation between the developers and ARC, the new interface allows an extensive range of detailing to be added to drawings. For example, a designer can introduce the layout of a drainage system, the locations of road signs and lighting units, or concrete slabbing - details. Features such as hatching can be used to improve the visual quality of a drawing.

A new dot-matrix printer that offers the option of printing the screen display in a "landscape" mode, is available from Technology for Business, which has developed the system that stores the contents of each page and, by using a special print buffer, rotates it through 90 degrees for printing.

With a venture capital investment of more than £300,000, a new company, Interface Network, has launched itself into the competitive retail market. It plans to operate a strictly-controlled franchise operation, selling micros to the business and professional user. The company has been set up by James Minotto, the ex-president of Computerland Europe, and Brian Albany, ex-MD of Sperrings Computer Shops.

UK Events

BBC Micro User Show, Westminster Exhibition Centre, London, December 9-11

Your Computer Christmas Fair, Wembley Conference Centre, December 15-18

Which Computer? Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 17-20

Northern Home Entertainment Show, Excelsior Hotel, Manchester Airport, January 19-22

Acorn Education Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, January 25-27

Statindex 84, Earis Court, London, January 28th-1st February

Communications & Computer Systems Fair - CABLES LET 84, Pontin's, Prestatyn, Wales, February 2-4

International Home Computers, Heathrow Penta Hotel, February 13-15

Information Technology & Office Automation Exhibition & Conference, Barbican Centre, London, February 21-24

OEM Only Conference, Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7

Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Hall, March 13-15

Essex Apple Village, Festival Hall, Basildon, Essex, March 25-28

Compiled by Personal Computer News

The serious side

By Geoffrey Ellis

This week we look at new books which cater for the more serious user, either at home, or in business. As usual, there are titles for machines, languages and general applications.

The Commodore 64 bridges the gap between the home and business user, and features in two new titles, The Sensible 64 by David Highmore and Liz Page, and Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers from Eddie Adamis. The former offers easy access to topics such as user-defined graphics, function keys, and the elusive sprite effects. The other title is in fact, no more than a compendium of useful routines for CBM machines, including the 64.

The prestige present this Christmas for the jet-setting business executive must be a hand-held computer. The recipient of the Epson HX20 should also be given a copy of Getting Started with the Epson HX20, by Stan Corlett and John Cain. It is aimed at the beginner, and after sections on setting up the machine, takes the owner through the various functions. By the end of the book the new user should be in a position to not only operate, but program his machine.

A substantial volume dealing with Basic, by Brian Walsh of Liverpool University, Proper Basic, moves from introductory pieces, through the intermediate section dealing with strings and arrays and the use of modular programming. It ends with a comprehensive advanced section on graphics, matrix handling, use of files, and a useful section of appendices.

Dr M. A. Bramer, a distinguished figure in the field of Artificial Intelligence, edits an in-depth study of games Computer Game Playing. In the introduction, Dr Bramer makes the point that computer games are one of the oldest and most successful manifestations of AI, with a paper on chess, dating back to 1950.

In his book he has pulled together a collection of essays which must be regarded as representing "the state of the Art" in their fields.

Two remaining titles deal with languages, LISP and Pascal. Pascal programs for Business by Tom Swan was developed on the Apple II computer with UCSD Pascal system, and apart from covering the normal utilities; business graphics, word processing and financial modelling, also contains a section of routines common to many of the applications.

Gillian Cattell and Arthur Norman have written LISP on the BBC micro which provides a useful primer to those seeking to advance from Basic to the more sophisticated atmosphere of LISP, a language widely used in AI applications.

The Sensible 64. (Micro Books) £5.5; Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers (Wiley) £10.50; Getting Started with the Epson HX20. (Phoenix) £5.95; Proper Basic. (Wiley) £12.50; Computer Game Playing. (Wiley) £25.00; Pascal systems for business. (Wiley) £15.95; LISP on the BBC Microcomputer. (Acornsoft) £7.50.

THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

large slice of their traditional business.

The language is named after Ada Lovelace (1815-52), who is said by romantic historians, to have been the first computer programmer. Its origin was a DoD decision in 1974 to standardize on a single programming language in place of the 350 different ones used then by different contractors. This software Tower of Babel was costing the Pentagon \$3,500m a year.

No existing language could encompass all the DoD requirements (Coral 66, the real-time standard adopted by the MoD in Britain was too limited). So the Americans went through a

Micro-game fever follows the Cube

By Paul Walton

Hungarian teenagers, spurred on by the international success of Rubik's cube, are designing games for the microcomputers which most of them have ever even seen - their success has won them all the chance to buy micros in the shops this Christmas.

A competition held in Hungary last year brought in over 30,000 ideas for new computer games, of which a tenth were considered novel enough to warrant commercial exploitation. Twenty of these were so innovative that Commodore (UK) agreed to have them programmed, and now the Budapest-based company behind the scheme is cashing in on all this youthful enthusiasm.



Rabik... the spur

Novotrade is importing the Commodore 64 and possibly also machines from Acorn into Hungary, the first time that micros have legitimately found their way into the eastern bloc. It has also linked up with a British electronics firm, Vilecan, setting up a distributor for its range of games and commercial packages called Andromeda Software.

Mr Gabor Renyi, Novotrade's managing director, explained that most communist countries could not afford to import expensive consumer goods like micros unless they could balance the purchase by exporting software or programming services. He was in London earlier this month (November 14-15) as part of the first ever Hungarian trade delegation to offer its software to the British market.

After Professor Rubik, Erno of the Institute of Architecture in Budapest, made a fortune from sale of the cube which he designed to express simple mathematical concepts, Mr Renyi saw that many Hungarian youngsters were trying to emulate their heroes success.

"Hungarians love puzzles and mathematical conundrums, and Rubik became a bit of a national hero when he was

internationally acclaimed with his cube. The most important thing to remember when designing computer game is that the idea should be a new one - it doesn't matter if you can program or not."

Mr Renyi said that 300 of the ideas submitted in the competition were "novel, if not unique". Commodore (UK) which sponsored the prizes, picked up twenty of the ideas for programming.

Novotrade, which means "selling new technology", gave Hungary a distinct advantage over other Eastern Bloc countries in that it is free to trade in its newly liberalised mixed-market, and has the cash needed to import goods because it is owned by three of the countries largest banks.

Mr Renyi said that in 1982, when the competition was being organized, he also discovered a "quite staggering" black market trade in micros which exists in all the communist countries, at that time against the authorities' wishes.

He said that youngsters, and their reluctant fathers, from the Eastern Bloc countries which border onto Austria converge on the capital Vienna, where most kinds of high technology can be bought and that thousands of micros have been smuggled into Hungary.

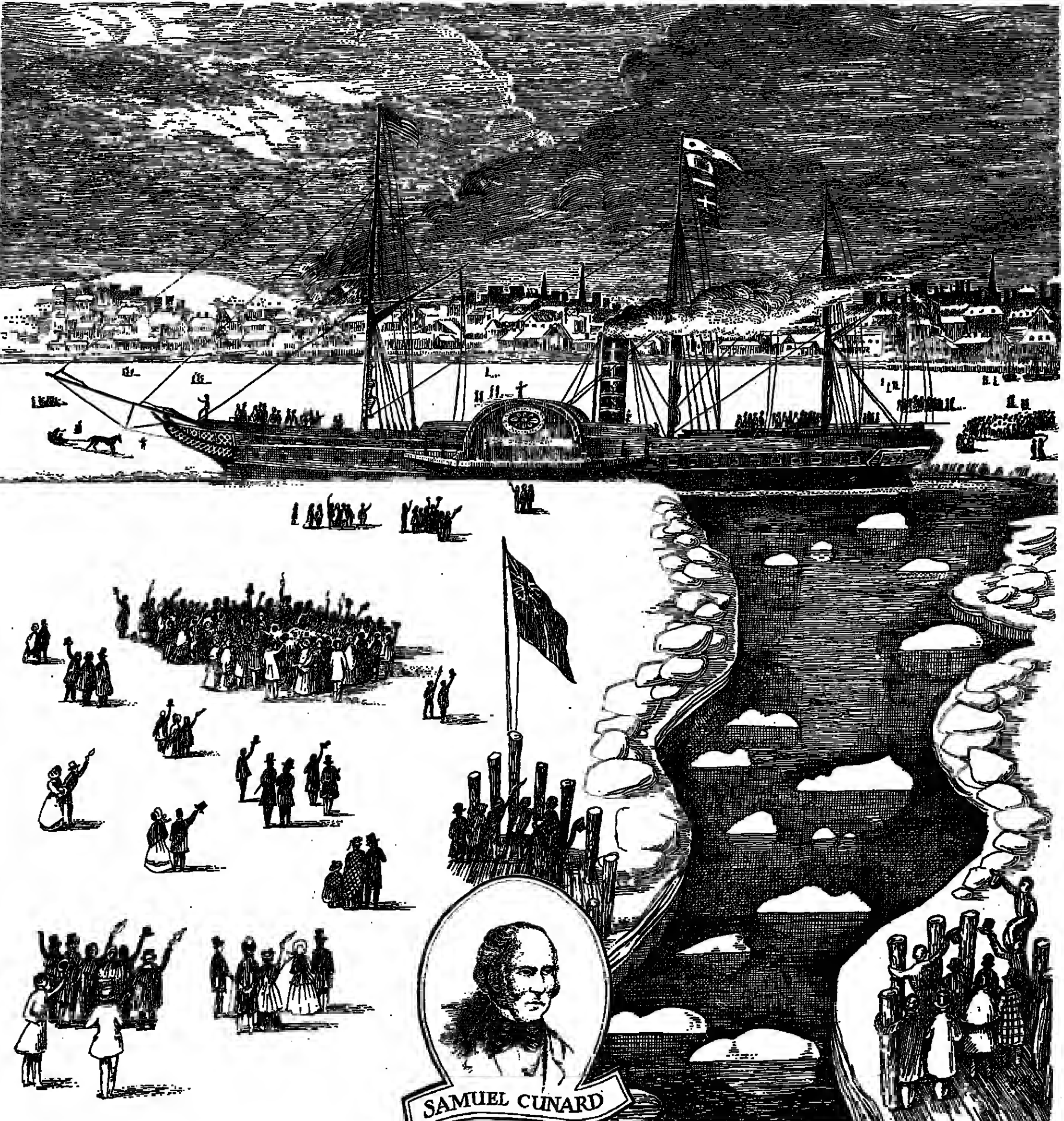
Last Christmas Novotrade began selling its first computer games through the major distributors such as Philips, Commodore, the Parker Brothers games-maker, and lately through the Daily Mirror's Mirrorsoft venture. Mr Renyi has spent this year both publicising his computer games and arranging to bring the first micros into Hungary.

This Christmas the first couple of thousand Commodore 64 machines and peripherals - worth just around \$2 million - will be sold in Hungary's main chain of department stores. "I think that they are already sold out with advanced orders", added Mr Renyi.

He puts the thaw in trade relations down to the success of his computer games competition. Like other Hungarians at the software expo he is looking to the "export of brain power" or software, to play a part in the continuing liberalisation of the economy.

Even the secret service man assigned to watch over the Hungarian software expo seemed to spend all his time playing with the video games and trying to look inconspicuous.

The first Cunard steamer, the Britannia, at Boston U.S.A.



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The qualities required are self motivation and the ability to motivate others, an extensive background in data processing and preferably working experience in a local authority team.

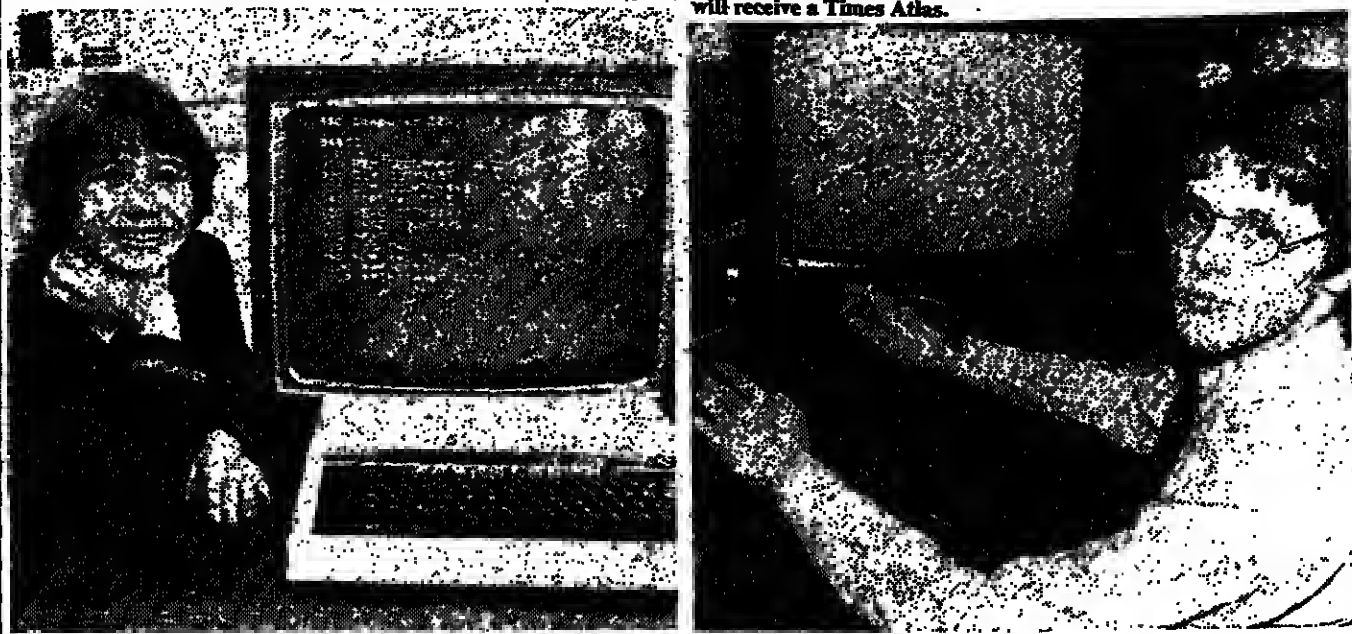
Application forms and job description can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Council Offices, Farnborough Road, FARNBOROUGH, Hants, Farnborough 51222 (ext 211) returnable by 12 December 1983. Interested applicants may telephone the Assistant Borough Treasurer, Mr W Johnson (ext 239) for further information.

Borough of RUSHMOOR

THE TIMES Classroom computer competition/tenth winners

A 12-year-old girl and a boy aged 16 are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer tenth competition. They are Jane White of The Maynard School, Exeter, Devon, and Daniel Hodgson of Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge, Wiltshire, Cumbria. The winning decision was made by a tie-break question. The answers were 1) A; 2) B; 3) B; 4) C; 5) A. The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, and a personal gift of the Times Atlas of World History.

The eight runners-up are Glenn Alford, Bellemor School, Southampton, Hants; Wendy Stephens, The Royal School, Bath, Avon; Keith Humphreys, Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Cleeve, Herts; Keith Gilkes, Aylesbury Grammar School, Aylesbury, Bucks; Rachel Gasterney, St Alban's School, Oldham; Iain Hay, St Andrew's High School, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland; Alice Brown, Oxford High School, Oxford; Jonathan Seaborn-May, Yateley Manor School, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey. Each will receive a Times Atlas.



Jane and Daniel come out on top

Jane White, aged 12, has just finished writing an adventure game for her BBC micro which she has had for about a year. Although her aunt teaches computing, she is more interested in maths and chemistry. Jane has gained swimming awards in the Devon county championships and also enjoys hockey. She will be taking a weekly double lesson in computing from next term at her school which is equipped with an RML and some Spectrums. The head, Miss Felicity Mardin, is beginning to use the micro in subjects such as geography and hopes to increase the use of the computers more widely in the school. At present it is restricted to the second year, with free access for the girls of the sixth form. There is, however, a flourishing computer club.

Daniel Hodgson, aged 16, also has a BBC machine, but with pressure of school work now finds little time to relax with his favourite games. He has written a business package for his father and would like to make a career in either computing or electrical engineering after completing a sixth-form course. His school has a variety of machines available - RMLS, a network of Tandy machines and a couple of BBCs. The headmaster, David Tipping, is using the network to offer a word processing course to the sixth form and hopes to add it to the fourth form options block next year. He would like each school leaver to have taken one of the computer courses by the end of their time in the school.

Those who entered last week should be sure that entries are posted to arrive by first post Tuesday, December 13.

Using a computer to pull in the clients

Few business people not involved in the selling of hard or software are as enthusiastic about the applications of the computer as Mark Weinberg.

Mr Weinberg, who is 51, is the founder and deputy chairman of Hambro Life, Britain's largest unit-linked insurance company writes Ross Davies.

He is putting the computer to work at Hambro Life not only to speed up his business but as a marketing tool as an attraction to potential clients for Hambro's financial services.

Mr Weinberg began his professional life as a barrister. He came to this country from South Africa in the late 1950s to do a research degree on company law. When in the early

1960s he was asked to set up a new life assurance business in this country, Abbey Life, he brought to it a double dose of the outsider's clarity of vision.

He sold off Abbey Life and founded Hambro Life 12 years ago, but now as then he has been in the forefront of innovation and professionalism in the life assurance business.

Hambro Life, whose headquarters is in Mayfair, has administrative offices in Swindon and has long been aware of the contribution to be made by computer applications.

Much of Hambro Life's business comes from people who already hold policies with the company. A recent development of computer services

called the "Promt" system reminds salespeople and insurance brokers when policies lapse, or when new insurance products become available which might be of interest to existing clients.

The paperwork is speeded along by word-processors and allied office systems which are now used in all departments.

A recent Hambro Life report, however, says, "A new computer system is being implemented to provide the capacity to support the company's growth into the 1980s and beyond."

The detail behind this rather bland statement is still top secret, but it marks the transformation of the computer from

the status of backroom boy to resident attraction.

What is happening is that Hambro Life, having recently acquired a small Mayfair bank, is about to emulate the clearing banks and market a package of what Mr Weinberg calls "integrated personalized financial services".

In essence, Mr Weinberg says, individuals with more money than the time or knowledge to handle it well, will be able to call on Hambro Life not just for advice and service on insurance, but for many of the financial services - portfolio management, for instance - that clearer offer, as well as one or two more.

The computer, he says, will help them gain a marketing edge over the clearing banks in a novel way.

Banks, he says, often fail to persuade customers of their banking services to become customers for their non-banking financial services such as those in insurance, unit trusts or hire-purchase.

"We think," said Mr Weinberg, "that is in part due to the absence of an individual contract but in part it's the absence of an integrated computer system, because when you're dealing with different parts of the bank empire (a) you're dealing with a different person, and (b) if you have any relationships with five different parts of the bank you have five different bits of paper."

What he and Hambro Life are planning is to have customers deal with or through one individual but also to receive, with the computer's help, only one "bit of paper".

Hambro Life, he said, is planning a link-up of all its different services. This will give the client "a composite statement of all the different bits and pieces, rather than your getting totally different pieces of paper from totally different people."

This "bit" will take the form of an easy-to-read monthly print-out showing "all the transactions you have had in the month, of whatever kind, and the value of everything you've got within the group."

"The challenge is to make the thing understandable and attractive - that's a real marketing service challenge, if you like."

Talking back is the new way of selling

When the thrill of the arcade games has palled, and the post-Christmas intake of new home computer owners starts to take a long hard look at their new wares and wonder what on earth would suggest one answer become interactive.

Interactivity is what separates the costly business of cable television from its more attractive rival - on the surface anyway - of satellite broadcasting. With the satellite, the transmission is one way - from the broadcaster to your home. Using cable, you can talk back, and that means a new way of selling goods, purchasing and transmitting information, and generally moving even further towards the cashless society.

There are a couple of problems with this theory, not the least being that if you want an interactive system you can still have it with satellite by putting the job down your telephone line.

But I had always thought that this sort of stuff was still firmly in the land of science fiction, and I was wrong. The home computer owner can use interactive technology relatively cheaply and easily through such commonplace machines as the Sinclair Spectrum and the BBC B. And cut through cable either, but the more mundane offices of British Telecom.

Micronet is the name of the system run by BT and East Midlands Allied Press, and if you are looking for a quick guide to the possibilities of home computing, I can think of no better place to start.

In the case of the Sinclair, the link is made through a £99 "modem", unit which, in this case, fits neatly underneath the computer itself and enables it to communicate through the telephone with a number of larger computers. Once you have paid for your modem, you must stump up £1 a week to belong to the system and, if you use it at the busiest times of day, extra fees for computer time, though these can be avoided at night.

BT's viewdata system Prestel is instantly available through Micronet, with all its information services and conventional viewdata offerings. What makes Micronet unique are the additional services it offers the home computer owner. After keying in one's identification code, one reaches a menu which can take the system into conventional computer magazine reviews of products and industry happenings. Interesting, perhaps, but not overwhelmingly so. Move on a little further into the telesoftware section and things become considerably more impressive.

Micronet's greatest selling point is its ability to offer software programs directly down the telephone line the moment you choose them. Once they have arrived, they can be saved to the conventional way, onto tape or disk, and kept for future use just as if they had been bought in a computer store.

Saving software down the phone is relatively easy once you have the knack. There is a vast range of free programs on offer which enable you to get the hang of the thing before moving into the purchasing area. Some subjects like home filing and finance, are as good as the ones which can cost £10 through conventional means.

Because there are no manufacturing costs for Micronet, the price of the sold programs is around 60 per cent of that charged for the same thing in the shops.

Being interactive, Micronet can act as an electronic mailbox for its members. They can post computer queries onto a general noticeboard and hope for answers to be left by other, more knowledgeable, members. A new facility offers to transmit telex messages for 50p a page.

If there is one drawback to what promises to be a most exciting system, it is the small size of Micronet's membership, which, at the moment, stands around the 5,000 mark. That will change as modems appear to link more types of home machine into the system. Until it is as large as the realm of the diehard enthusiast.

HOME USER

David Hewson

On a more prosaic note I have to say that the highways and byways of the Prestel computer have left me disorientated on more than one occasion, flicking through news from the British tourist authority when I should have been searching for new home utility programs.

There are some annoying quirks to the system, most notable of which is the irksome refusal to allow the subscriber to scroll back to the last page. This is forbidden to Micronet, at least it seemed so to me. Tortuous detours through subsidiary menus need to be made to retrieve bits of information which were at hand only a moment ago.

I imagine that such bugs will be cured in time. Micronet is a system which can only get better as the months pass. For what it offers, it seems relatively cheap, though one should always bear in mind, and, unlike most computer peripherals, it ought to satisfy a wide range of users.

Careers on computer

By Maggie McLening

Careers offices throughout the country are being encouraged to computerise details of young people on the government Youth Training Scheme. The Department of Employment has sent a circular to local authorities offering a 50% grant towards the cost of installing a system, providing it is (or is fully compatible with) the 16-bit Comart Communicator range endorsed by the scheme's steering committee.

Two scales of system have been recommended, both based on the CP1542 model - a 5Megabyte version for one-year groups, which would hold a maximum of 1,500 records and a 20Megabyte system capable of storing up to 3,000 records. Careers offices have until October 31 to take advantage of the grants, and Comart has agreed to peg its prices (which have been discounted for the scheme) until then.

Two hundred Comart Communicators have so far been ordered by local authorities, but there may be up to 300 other offices involved eventually. Chairman of the Comart Group, David Broad, estimates that the project may be worth £2 million to his group and is confident that careers offices will not turn to other manufacturers.

"The circular states that other makes will only be considered for a grant if they are fully compatible with the Communicator and if the software will run on our machines without modification," he explained. "Since Comart is providing a continuation of the dBase II database and our own standard source programs, it is very unlikely that others will be compatible."

He believes that Comart was successful in being recommended because two thirds of the micros supplied under the scheme for general practitioners were Communicators, and the company had proved that it could support users country-wide.

The Irish Industrial Development Authority will be establishing a National Software Centre in Dublin as a subsidiary organisation to support the continued growth of the software industry in Ireland. The Centre will: -provide a range of technical support services for the development of the industry in Ireland -develop innovative software products in co-operation with software and hardware manufacturing companies -provide training in advanced techniques so as to increase the technical capabilities of companies. It will operate as a private limited company with its own board of directors and will be expected to become self financing.

Executive Director, Irish Industrial Development Authority personally at Dublin (0011) 601520 or forward your Curriculum Vitae to him, marking your envelope 'Personal and Confidential' before 23rd December 1983 at Irish Industrial Development Authority, Lansdowne House, Dublin 4, Ireland.

The salary and conditions attached to this position will be negotiable. They will reflect the high calibre of the person sought and the importance of the post. If you would like more information you can telephone Páid McMenamin.



Managing Director

A Managing Director is now being recruited to establish, develop and manage the National Software Centre. This is a key appointment as the person recruited will have primary responsibility for the launch and operational success of the Centre. To qualify for appointment to this position, you should have an extensive management and technical background in software development in a commercial environment, desirably with international experience.

You should also have a qualification in a relevant discipline and have the necessary drive and vision to build up the Centre to become a key resource in the future development of the software industry in Ireland.

The National Software Centre Ltd.

Mainframe DB Designers

Now you have the chance to join Europe's largest independent systems company and one of the biggest development projects in the country. This new multi-million pound project involves the production of a massive online transaction processing and database enquiry system for a major British client.

You will be given the opportunity to work in a high powered

APPLICATIONS ANALYSTS/DESIGNERS

- Background in large mainframe environments
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SYSTEMS SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

- Knowledge of database administration
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Based in the London area, salaries up to £20,000 p.a. plus benefits.

team creating a major new system using the latest mainframe hardware and software. You will work closely with the client to evolve a wholly new and integrated approach to his customer interactions.

We are looking for people who can demonstrate a proven track record in MAINFRAME DB/DC ANALYSIS & DESIGN, or any of the related areas:

To discover more, call 01-636 5440 between 5.00 pm and 9.00 pm today 6th December 1983 (reversing the charges) and talk to our specialists about how you might fit in. You'll find what they have to say particularly interesting.

If you cannot call at that time, please write for an application form to: Julia Santon, LOGICA UK LTD., Ref: CGS/83, 64 Newman Street, London W1A 4SE.



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Our client is one of the UK's leading micro dealerships, specialising in IBM, DEC and Apple hardware. Supported by massive financial backing and a dedicated management team, the company is now poised to enter a key expansion phase with these appointments.

Identify your 20's with proven sales ability, you will be ambitious, personable, professional - and totally committed to success. Previous computer experience is essential and an awareness of the potential of networking and micro/mainframe communications would be advantageous.

This is your chance to advance your career in an organisation which offers rapid promotion opportunity and first-class support. Realistic on target earnings will be in the region of £25,000 - with a negotiable guarantee - and fringe benefits include a flexible company car scheme. Contact Peter Lloyd today quoting reference T 1309.

01-242 9356 24 hour answering service occ computer personnel Recruitment Consultants, Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA.

لقدنا من الاصل

Confusion on the managers' pay front

Two recent salary surveys of data processing staffs provide cheer for the staff members involved but confusion for managers in trying to settle salary levels.

The best news for staff comes from a survey conducted by the Management Personnel company, a recruitment organisation. Increases over the last year have, in many job categories, been as high as 25 per cent for median salaries.

The median salary for a senior programmer, for instance, is £11,000, according to the survey, a full 35 per cent increase over the median for 1982.

The Computer Users' Year Book* does not present such a glowing figure for senior programmers or for the majority of the job titles both surveys have in common.

According to the CUYB the median salary for a senior programmer is £9,500, £1,500 lower than the salary in the Management Personnel survey. The increase over the past year has been nothing like the 35 per cent registered by Management Personnel, the CUYB claims. In fact, it is just over 6.8 per cent.

No doubt staff arguing for a salary increase will choose to base their case on Management Personnel's figure while managers will use the CUYB figures.

JOB SCENE

Richard Sharpe

The differences run through almost all the job categories that the two surveys have in common. In only four categories, systems analyst, operator and data preparation operator, do the surveys agree to within £50. Those medians are £9,500, £5,590 and £4,680, respectively.

According to the CUYB the biggest increases in median salaries over the year have been for data control supervisors whose median has lifted to £6,750. Management Personnel puts this £400 lower.

Management Personnel also says that in one job category, data preparation operator, the median has gone down, by 8%. The CUYB survey claims it has gone up by just over 6%. Even if this job category's median salary has not gone down it will have had one of the lowest increases because of the cutbacks in data preparation staff.

Management jobs such as data processing manager and operations manager have fared much better. Data processing managers are paid £15,500 on the median. Management Personnel claims, while the CUYB figure is £13,727, a 9% increase over last year's CUYB survey.

Operations managers have had a 10% increase in their median salary, both surveys agree, but they now put that salary at different levels. The CUYB £10,643 and Management Personnel at £10,000.

The routine programmer gets £7,982, says Management Personnel with the CUYB pitching the median at £7,982. *Computing Publications, £52.95.

People: Shiraz Virji of Steiger Computers



The world's biggest computer shop

By Roger Woolnough
Shiraz Virji does not do things by halves. He claims that Steiger Computers, on London's North Circular Road, has the biggest computer store in the world. Not that's just part of it.

Above the store, two large VAX 11/780 computers sit in air-conditioned splendour. Steiger is offering these for a disaster recovery service - said to be the first for VAX users in Britain. Virji also has software development in his sights, possibly using programmers in India for the labour-intensive activities.

Shiraz Virji was born in India, but then moved with his parents to Africa. There his father built up an import-export

business which the younger Virji eventually joined. Realising that the big opportunities lie in high technology, he came to Britain about two years ago to study the market.

"The idea was to get into some area of the computer industry," he explains. He came up with three possibilities - software, computer retailing, and disaster recovery, which provides a back-up for companies should their own computers break down. "There was some doubt to my mind about which one to go into," he admits. He decided to enter all three.

"The VAX is a machine which is used to develop software for smaller machines," he says. "But software is something which will take off slowly, and through the disaster recovery service the VAX will pay for itself."

Virji is already talking about opening another VAX disaster recovery centre, even though he has not yet signed up any clients for the first one. "Management is a bit slow at taking decisions," he says, but adds that interest has been "huge" and points out that there are 300 VAX users in Greater London alone. Most of these are totally dependent on their computers.

The computer store, Virji already stocks nine different makes of business computer, and is negotiating for more. Another part of the shop offers home computers and games, again with a wide selection.

But the formula is not simply one of bigness. He runs seminars for potential business users, offers technical and applications advice, and provides training and familiarisation courses - all free.

"Computers are not a product which sells off the shelf," he says. "People are not going to walk into a shop and say 'Give me a computer.' Providing all that free

service, of course, is not cheap, nor is it altruistic. "It will reduce our margins, but will increase our turnover to a very high level."

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The computer store is already doing well and the first year's turnover could reach £3 million. Expansion plans include a store in Croydon, another close to the City and one in Milton Keynes.

Back to the faithful slide

By David Seeking

Until recently, almost all graphic text and statistical speaker support slides were photographs of laboriously prepared artwork. Single slides can be very expensive, especially when colour or special effects are required: prices of £45 or more are not uncommon and, when produced at the very last minute in response to late changes of mind or new information, costs escalate even more.

What is more, artwork for slides invariably takes a long time to prepare and, if the graphic artist is unfamiliar with statistics or misunderstands his or her brief, the results can be disappointing.

Computer graphics - the art (or science?) of generating graphic images by computer - are changing all this. Sophisticated graphics or bar charts, graphs, text, logos and sequences of pictures and special effects can be created in full colour quickly and sometimes very cheaply - and without anything being pre-

pared on an art board.

Few realize that they are already very familiar with computer graphics: the technique is widely used by the BBC and independent television companies for programme trailers and in programmes where statistical information is presented visually.

As a general rule, computer graphics as seen on television represent the sophisticated - and expensive - use of the technique; for example, a 15-second logo sequence for London Weekend Television cost over £15,000 and the price of the most sophisticated sequences can be as high as £2,000 per second.

Fortunately, speaker support slides come at the other end of the cost scale (one production house is already supplying computer graphics slides at around £15 each - a third of the cost of conventional artwork based slides). Slides made from computer graphic images are not only cheaper than slides from conventional artwork, but the presentation tends to be

clearer, more appropriate, and the visual impact correspondingly greater.

"Computer graphics" is the generic term for a process which uses a computer to reproduce letters, figures, logos, symbols and other graphic images on a screen (VDU). The operator can use the computer programme to select whatever images, size, shape, style, colour(s) and background desired.

He or she can experiment with proportions, graph axes and letter styles and sizes. He can enlarge or reduce the image, change colours and manipulate shapes to turn, produce a curve or swirl effect (as often seen in TV computer graphic sequences). When the "perfect" combination has been found, the image can be preserved on slide.

A host of computer graphic systems is now available. Some, with comparatively low resolution, can be used with microcomputers such as Apple, IBM or Xerox. At the "bottom end" of the market, picture quality and resolution is hardly better than Preset or the other alpha-

geometric systems used in viewdata (Cecafax and Oracle).

However, most users need - or prefer - a better resolution in order to make the end-image closer to the quality of conventional slides. There are several so called 1000 line computer graphic systems - software which can be used on many computers, including Xerox, Apollo II and IBM.

For the technically minded, a "1000 line system" employs approximately 1000 pixels across the top of the screen. A 3:2 screen ratio would contain 600 pixels across and 600 down, giving 650,000 individually addressable bits of picture to manipulate. This is sufficient to produce images of reasonable resolution, although not with well-rounded lettering, or smooth curved edges. 1000 line systems are comparatively inexpensive - well under £10,000.

The screen images produced on the cheaper 1000 line systems can be recorded and sent to a specialist for high resolution reproduction. The results are excellent and virtually indistinguishable from slides of conventional artwork; some argue computer graphics are better because more colours can be added without increasing cost - something which is not possible with conventional artwork because of the extra drawing board time involved.

Computer graphics are extremely flexible. Statistical information, in particular, can be put onto slide very easily. Indeed, the speaker can be present as the images are manipulated on the screen and can make as many changes as he wishes before making up his mind. In this way, time is saved, information can be more up to date, and subsequent changes can usually be avoided.

Invest - or we'll fall behind

Alan Benjamin looks at the progress since IT Year



Even the most reactionary of business men and public servants know within themselves that information handling is the key to their future competitiveness.

I use the word reactionary to describe a resistance to Information Technology and the priority it receives in their minds. The reasons for resistance are quite well known, consisting of a mixture of fear, distrust and misunderstanding. We should not mock these conditions for they are real enough and basically stem from an education system late in awakening to the new information paradigm.

The important issue is future competitiveness. I confidently assert a direct relationship between the quality of an organisation's information handling and its competitiveness.

We have moved from the information processing past, to the information technology present and on to the information handling future.

The next generation of business men and public servants will take this technology for granted like electricity, because they will have grown up with it and for them it will be just another tool. But, it will become the most important competitive tool of all because it will reflect man's initiative, creativity, risk taking judgement and imagination.

All these characteristics are present today. Tomorrow the power of information handling systems will add a new dimension to them - and such systems will enhance the human capability. Perhaps some examples of handling information will be useful.

In foreign exchange dealing, financial organizations which can simultaneously monitor prospective deals, model exposures and balance portfolios will gain precious time and knowledge advantages over those who cannot.

Food wholesalers who invite retailers to join electronically their product stock file and delivery schedules through an inter-active computer network, will gain a sales advantage by offering an integrated purchasing facility.

A manufacturer using an automated plant will be able to have better control production flows, quality and stock levels than his competitors. Market analysis and modelling will give him advance product information which will enable him to time production turnover.

Hotels with real time systems will be able to market "seasonality" services and vacancies on the basis of facts rather than guesses and will increase occupancy.

Hospitals with full department information systems

The possibilities for improved reliability in products and processes of all kinds increase automatically through the information handling systems used to design, model and test products before they are manufactured or processed. This is another crucial characteristic of competitiveness.

So information handling is the spinal cord of the future business and government department. It will not be available without investment, and the longer the investment is delayed, the wider the gap between organizations with and without modern information handling will become.

The pace of investment is very important. The finance industry is a case in point. Development now taking place in South East Asia in retail banking, point of sale data entry, database intelligence and investment management systems, are ahead of much that is being done in the United Kingdom. Funds will follow service and the technology will coalesce the customers to go East.

The availability of networking services in the United States has begun an immense growth in the use of personal computers and small business systems. It is becoming normal to integrate external databases into one's own information handling systems.

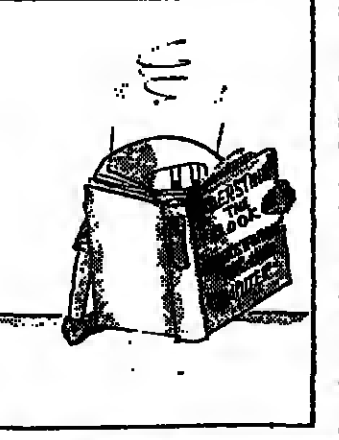
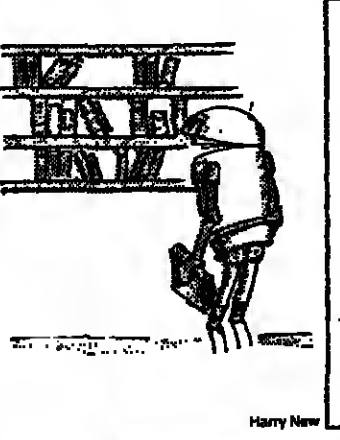
The investment required to achieve these levels of information handling capability is far more than has ever taken place before. Information handling will become a major budget line in business planning. It will include, inter alia, computing equipment, communications networks, terminals and other peripherals, cabling, external database costs, professional staff, data storage products, telephone networks, the corporate database, software, skill databases and word processors.

At the end of Information Technology Year 1982, market research confirmed a much heightened awareness, indeed a real excitement and a momentum for a quantum leap forward towards information handling.

Is it simply too much to expect radical decision or brave investment in Britain in the 1980s? In Singapore, Korea and Japan it is not only the philosophy which is optimistic and excited like our own, but the accompanying actions which count.

We in Britain toy with our investment at our peril. We shall be outflanked, outmanoeuvred and our pace of our investment.

Mr Benjamin was chairman of Information Technology Year 1982.



Young, energetic business orientated Microcomputer specialists

These are the qualities which apply to our client. Established in 1982 with sound financial backing and Central London offices they have already enjoyed considerable success in the field of microcomputer communications. As part of their future growth plans they are looking for two individuals with these same personal qualities that reflect the company image.

Business Project Manager London £15,000 + car
Reporting to the Managing Director, this is a ground-floor opportunity for a commercially aware and technically competent computer professional. Very much a co-ordinating role, you'll liaise with manufacturers, software houses, distributors and customer field service in order to ensure smooth running and the achievement of sales and marketing objectives. Ideally aged around 30, with strong man-management skills you should be able to demonstrate an awareness of software techniques on main or micros.

National Sales Manager London £15,000 + car
Responsible for negotiating all sales and distribution deals throughout the UK, you'll need proven sales experience in a DP related field, preferably micros or communications networks. Aged 25-40, you'll either be in management already and looking for a more progressive working environment, or now set to make the next logical step up from a purely sales role.

For further details and early interview call Noel Price, Director of Recruitment, on 01-278 6426 or 01-285 9417 (7pm-11pm), or write to him with full CV to ACSIS Inc., 37/39 Dowling Green Lane, London EC1R 1BY.



THE TIMES
COMPUTER NEWS EDITOR

The computer revolution and the explosion of interest in home computers are mirrored more vividly in *The Times* than in any other National Newspaper.

The success of Computer Horizons and our plans for this weekly section have created a vacancy for a news editor to monitor developments in computing and information technology, handle news, suggest features and deal with correspondence.

Necessary qualifications are: journalistic experience, technical knowledge of computing and familiarity with the computer industry.

Full career details to Managing Editor, The Times Special Reports, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1

COMPUTER PERSONNEL VACANCIES

CONSULTANTS C. LONDON TO: £22,000
A prestigious City based software house is currently recruiting D.P. professionals to work at various clients sites. Applicants should possess a good honours degree as well as strong systems experience gained from any hardware role but other duties will include staff monitoring, system modification and hardware/software appraisal. The company offers a comprehensive benefits package on top of an attractive salary. REF TA 7008

SYS ANALYST LONDON TO: £15,000
This City based commodity dealer wishes to recruit a Systems Analyst with experience of financial and/or communications applications, especially if it has been gained on DEC hardware. The main work area will be in a development role but other duties will include staff monitoring, system modification and hardware/software appraisal. The company offers a comprehensive benefits package on top of an attractive salary. REF TJ 7123

GRADUATE ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS C. LONDON £9 - £14,000
Graduates with a degree in any discipline and upward of 18 months computing experience are required by this leading international consultancy. Areas of particular interest are IBM COBOL, Assembler, PL1 and RPG II/III, Hewlett Packard, Burroughs and Tandem, however Programmers and Analysts/Programmers with any hardware/software exp are invited to reply. Successful applicants will be working as Consultants on a wide range of hardware. The positions will be both demanding and rewarding with a certain amount of travel being involved. REF TS 5749

IBM PROGRAMMER SURREY C: £10,000
Currently vacant is the position of Programmer with a large manufacturing company in Surrey. The position requires the successful applicant to be experienced in specification and writing programs and preferably the implementation of on-line systems using ADB-on-line and IBM's, although extensive training will be given. A good standard of education and the potential for management is required. Min 2 yrs COBOL programming background in a commercial environment. IBM mainframe exp is essential and it would be an advantage to have knowledge of MVS and TSO/SPF. The benefits include overtime pay, life assurance, sports and social clubs, discounted BUPA and relocation expenses. REF TP 6976

SR PROGRAMMER LONDON/SURREY C: £15,000
This small expanding company are seeking a Senior Programmer to become a key member of a new product development team based on ICL. The applicant should possess extensive experience of systems development on either Micros or Minis plus a detailed working knowledge of UNIX and one other operating system. Knowledge of Fortran or C being desirable. As well as a high negotiable salary the company offers a comprehensive benefits package. REF TJ 7141

PROG/ANAL PROG SURREY TO: £11,500
Due to ongoing development, two vacancies have arisen within this Surrey based services company for Programmer and Analyst Programmer. Applicants for the position of programmer should have 2-3 yrs COBOL from an ICL background. Applications include production and commercial. The Analyst Programmer should have 2-3 yrs COBOL and have the capability to work alone on occasions. Both development and maintenance are involved, with more emphasis on development. Each position offers an excellent benefits package including 5 weeks holiday, pension scheme and staff canteen, with an exciting salary to match. REF TT 7088

COBOL OR PL1 ANAL/PROG C. LONDON TO: £13,000
A major international oil company are recruiting at Analyst/Programmer level. Applicants will be expected to progress to Project Leaders within 2-3 years and so must be of very high calibre. A programming background of at least 2 years is required, using either COBOL or PL1. Familiarity with CICS or DL1 would be advantageous, although full training will be given where necessary. Salary and benefits are those of a large and respected company. REF TW 6694

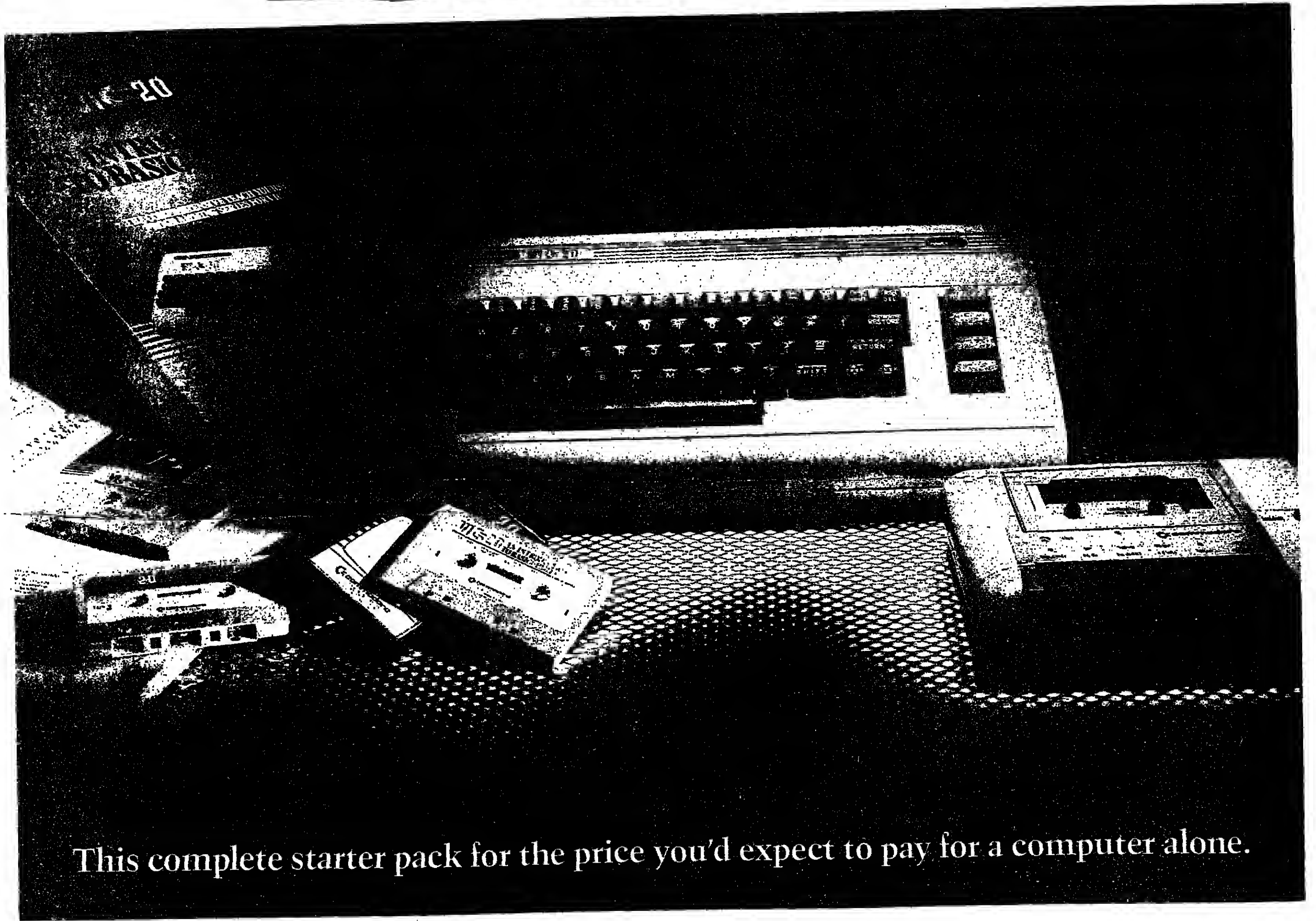
BUSINESS ANALYST WEST LONDON TO: £14,000
An established firm in the manufacturing sector require an Analyst to work on the development of their commercial systems. The successful applicant will be working in a large department with other Analysts, and will assume a Business Analyst role. Candidates should be graduates or of graduate calibre, and have worked as an Analyst for 2 years. Experience of IBM hardware would be advantageous, as would familiarity with database techniques and on-line systems (ADABAS and CICS are used). Remuneration is excellent, as are career prospects. REF TW 6691

DATAPOWER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

24hrs (01-437 5994 / 01-439 8302)
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21 CORK STREET LONDON W1X 1HB. BUSINESS PEOPLE IN THE PEOPLE BUSINESS

Your starter for £150.



This complete starter pack for the price you'd expect to pay for a computer alone.

It's a complete computer system: the Commodore VIC 20 computer, a cassette unit, a simple explanation of computer programming (called "Introduction to Basic Part 1"), plus an exclusive compilation tape of four computer programs (Blitz, Type-a-Tune, Race, and Hoppit).

And all for just £149.99 or less.

It's a terrific opportunity to introduce yourself, and all your family, to the exciting world of home computers — and with what has been described as the best home computer in the world.

The VIC 20 has educational programs for all ages (spelling, physics, arithmetic, etc.), plus music, typing, chess and home accounts.

There are special programs like Robert Carrier's menu planner and BBC 'Mastermind', and not forgetting, of course, lots and lots of wonderful arcade games.

You'll very soon be exploring new worlds of colour, animation, and sound.

Not just with a vast choice of programs, but with unlimited scope for expansion in the future.

The VIC 20 is the perfect com-

puter to start with because you can keep adding to it, and so get even more enjoyment out of it.

There are printers, disk drives, memory expansion packs and many other peripherals to choose from.

Which means, as your confidence grows, so can your VIC 20.

Get the VIC 20 starter pack today, and we promise you'll never look back.

commodore
VIC 20

YOU CAN SEE THE VIC 20 STARTER PACK AT ALL BRANCHES OF DIXONS, SELFRIDGES AND WALLACE HEATON, AND AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF BOOTS, RUMBELOWS, LASKYS, CURRYS, GREENS, ORBIT, MENZIES, LEWIS'S, MAKRO, TESCO, FINE FARE, WIGFALLS, SPECTRUM, COMET, JOHN LEWIS, WOOLWORTH, REDIFFUSION, CO-OP AND OTHER GOOD RETAILERS. ALSO AT BRANCHES OF A NATIONAL NETWORK OF COMMODORE COMPUTER DEALERS.

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حسبنا من الاجل

APPOINTMENTS

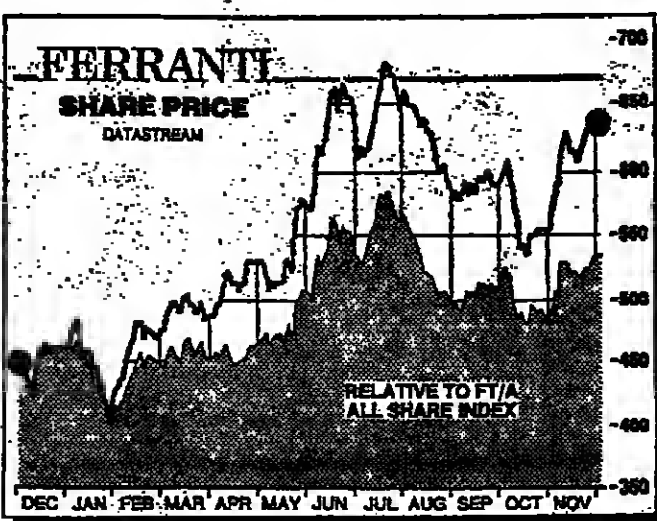
New overseas chief for Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank Overseas Division: Mr Peter Ederson is to become general manager, succeeding Mr Paul Clark, who retires next month. Mr Bill Bullock and Mr Geoffrey Higham will become assistant general managers.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Ferranti subsidiaries chip in

Ferranti is not just a high technology company living on the largesse of the Ministry of Defence. Its fortunes are also inextricably linked with capital investment by the world's post offices and energy industries, and the 25 per cent increase in Ferranti's interim pretax profits to £14.8m indicates how healthy are those sectors.



Even by the inflated standards of the Unlisted Securities Market, this is a creditable performance, the more so because most of the growth has been generated by humble cider. Merrydown has a mere 3 per cent of the market, which is still dominated by the likes of H P Bulmer, but seems undaunted

Henara cleared to seek full listing

Henara, the new hair products company, will try again this week for a public flotation after winning a clean bill of health for the natural ingredients of its henna based hair colourings.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for company names, share prices, and changes. Includes companies like Amgen, Amgen, Amgen, etc.

Merrydown is the happy position of watching overheads diminish rapidly as a proportion of turnover. This explains why profits rose so fast while turnover went up by only 31 per cent to £3.88m.

Computer systems and the Scottish group were the company's strongest performers last year and that pattern has continued into the current months. Overall turnover is 30 per cent up at £207m, about 40 per cent of which came from defence in one guise or another.

Computer systems and the Scottish group were the company's strongest performers last year and that pattern has continued into the current months. Overall turnover is 30 per cent up at £207m, about 40 per cent of which came from defence in one guise or another.

Company News in Brief: Includes brief news items for various companies like Ferranti, Merrydown, etc.

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Advertisement for a company, possibly related to the 'New overseas chief' article, mentioning 'Lloyds Bank' and 'Overseas Division'.

Advertisement for Merrydown, featuring a table of sales, home, duty, and export figures for 1983.

Advertisement for Commodities, listing various market prices and exchange rates.

Large advertisement for Paterson Zochonis, featuring images of baby products like Baby Powder, DiFo, and Imperial Lotion, with the slogan 'Better than expected'.

Advertisement for a company, possibly related to the 'New overseas chief' article, featuring a table of financial data and notes.

Advertisement for Base Lending Rates, listing various bank rates and financial information.

Advertisement for Paterson Zochonis, featuring a financial summary table comparing 1983 and 1982 performance.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Plessey soothes worries

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, Nov 28. Dealings end, Dec 6. Closing Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 18.

Plessey, one of Britain's biggest telecommunications groups, was in the City yesterday attempting to soothe fears about the lack of export orders for its System X telephone exchange which it developed jointly with GEC.

Mr Peter Marshall, a director of Plessey, told the stock broker Laing & Cruckshank that he was excited by the prospects for System X and Plessey was taking a relaxed view of export prospects. He thought it might be two or three years before exports started to show through.

So far Plessey and GEC have failed to win any export orders of significant size because of the high installation charges for System X. But Plessey hopes to reduce the costs by boosting production from 500,000 lines to around 3 million lines by next year. Only then will the consortium be able to compete with its main overseas rivals.

Only last month, Plessey and GEC received a shot in the arm when System X was chosen for the £2.9m contract to supply the municipally-owned Hull telephone service. Although only a small contract, the news will certainly have attracted the

attention of British Telecom and others. Laing & Cruckshank has always been cautious of Plessey's potential, but after yesterday's visit has decided to raise its profit forecast for the year from £165m to £180m. This compares with £146m last year. The shares responded with a 2p rise to 112p, after 114p.

Shares of Habitat Motocare tumbled 5p to 262p yesterday after last week's disappointing figures showing pre-tax profits of £10.5m, compared with market predictions of £12m. Analysts have downgraded their full-year estimates from £30m and £28m and now think the shares are overvalued.

The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre day still disturbed by the flop of the Government's latest sale of shares in Cable & Wireless.

Of the 100 million shares offered a minimum tender price of 275p, more than 77 million were eventually taken up, while the rest were left with the underwriters. The new party-paid shares opened at 96p before recovering to 100p. The ordinary shares ended the day 1p higher at 276p.

But the biggest shock of the day was in shares of BP, which tumbled 24p to 392p, wiping more than £450m off the group's value, when it announced that it had found nothing but water in the Mukluk project off Alaska.

The news from BP nipped in the bud any attempts at a rally by the rest of the market with the FT Index closing with a net gain of 0.7 at 742.0. Giltis also had a dull time with falls of up to 50p as sterling sank to its lowest level ever on the foreign exchange.

The stockbroker Capel Curc Myers on Friday was good news for Bawater, 5p up at 244p, just a whisper short of the year's high. Speculators are hoping for a bid from the US.

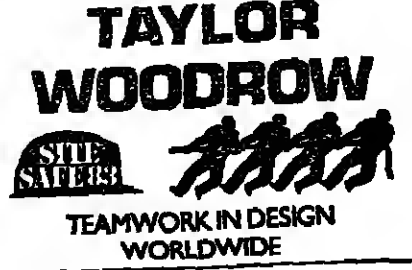
Barrow Hepburn Group's decision to hit the takeover trail has been well received in some quarters. The latest deal was Harbour Plastics, which it bought for an undisclosed sum just after paying £1.6m for Myrica, the chemicals group. Observers hope for a profit recovery this year to more than £1m compared with £865,000. The shares held steady at 30p - 3p below the year's high.

ICL fell 5p to 51p on a report in the Sunday Times of trouble in many of its key areas, although the company put out a detailed statement rebutting the report after hours. It said neither ICL's chairman, nor its managing director, had seen a

secret document said to have been circulating among senior management outlining areas of concern. Shares of Dec Corp rose 4p to 374p after a circular to shareholders revealed an increase in fixed assets from £74.9m to £149.5m and some bullish news from Mr Alec Monk, chairman.

Hacksaw blade manufacturers Charles Baynes believes there are rich pickings to be had when hospital and local authority cleaning work is offered to private enterprise. It has just bought two private laundry companies, Clegg and Barratt Fabric Care Services. Baynes is paying £2.15m for Clegg, a Liverpool group, for which it will issue 3.15 million new shares, or 31.2 per cent of the equity, of which 2.5 million will be placed at 65p a share. Clegg's profits amount to £185,000 last year and net assets stood at £962,000.

Baynes will also issue an extra 147,000 shares for Barratt to satisfy the asking price of £100,000. For the nine months to September 30, Baynes made pre-tax profits of £230,000. Last year, it made a total of £384,000. Baynes lost 2p to 69p.



RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and other details.

BRITISH FUNDS table listing various fund names and their performance metrics.

Table with columns for company names and their respective market data.

Table with columns for company names and their respective market data.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table listing international market data.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table listing local government market data.

DOLLAR STOCKS table listing US stock market data.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table listing banking and discount market data.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES table listing brewing and distilling market data.

Table with columns for company names and their respective market data.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various locations.

Money Market Rates

Table showing money market rates for clearing banks and discount rates.

Other Markets

Table showing other market rates for currencies like the Australian Dollar and Swiss Franc.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries.

Euro-£ Deposits

Table showing Euro-£ deposit rates for different terms.

Gold

Table showing gold prices and related market data.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies and their routes.

MINES

Table listing mining companies and their operations.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts and their assets.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies and their policies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts and their portfolios.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies and their developments.

PLANTATIONS

Table listing plantation companies and their land holdings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table listing miscellaneous companies and their products.

Handwritten note at the bottom of the page: 'لا تتركها من الاصل'

MOTOR RACING

Drivers off on the right track

By John Blunsden

Andrew Gilbert-Scott, the 25 year-old driver from Cookham, Berkshire, was taken into the motor racing limelight last night when Nelson Piquet, the world champion, presented him with the top Grovewood award for 1983 as the outstanding British and Commonwealth prospect of the year.

The presentation capped a season during which he won both the RAC and Townsend Thoresen Formula Ford 1600 championships and the end-of-season Formula Ford Festival at the wheel of a Reynard-Minister, sponsored by Brian de Zille, then went on to finish second in his first Formula Three race, driving a Murray Taylor Rahn-VW.

Gilbert-Scott (above) and Dumfries: first and second winners



James Hunt and Alan Jones, both former world champions, and other British drivers of outstanding ability like Derek Bell, Nigel Mansell, Derek Warwick and John Watson, all gained early exposure by way of a Grovewood award and on fewer than 30 past winners have gone on to drive in Formula One.

This year's second award has gone to John Dumfries, aged 23, from Fulham, after his first season in Formula Three. Like Gilbert-Scott, he graduated into motor racing from karting, and he has also shared with him the disappointment at having to give up racing to mid-season when the floods ran out.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- 7.30 unless stated
Milk Cup
Fourth round replay
Evanton v West Ham
Second division
Chelsea v Swindon
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division
Dorchester v Farnham; Stourbridge v Dartford;
Cage Thled round replay: Winger v Gloucester

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

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An intelligent person with a flexible attitude is required for a large North London house, and to be able to cook, clean, and iron. Must be aged 3 years and 18 months. Must drive.

Preferred age 25 to 35 years. Salary £260+ pm, neg for right person.
Phone: BOX 1746H THE TIMES

MIND SENSIBLE YOUNG PERSON

Wanted to cook, drive and shop on your own. Must be aged 17-21, single, in full-time education. Other info sent. Tel. 01-229 7954.

BELEAGUERED BUREAU have immediately an estate housekeeper, cook, housekeeper, experienced married couple, nannies and mothers help. 4343 44-05 42.

RESERVE YOUR SEAS and New Year holidays. We have a large fleet of boats for hire. All staff are carefully screened. Call 01-229 7954.

SCOTCH have available maid, butler, chauffeur, daily help, mother's help, housekeeper, and nannies. Tel. 01-229 7954.

SENIOR NANNY 48-50 for 18 months old child. Salary £200-250. 01-229 7954.

WORLD'S LARGEST Au Pair Bureau offers help, home, all in one staff. 87 Newland Street, W 11 01-439 6334.

ADVERTISING SECRETARIES and Clerks. All levels. Write to: East London, 100 Ave, 74700 Southampton, France.

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EXPERIENCED qualified housekeeper to live in a position in London area. Aged 55 with 3 years experience. Tel. 01-229 7954.

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SECRETARY Publishers SW London. The Head of Marketing for this world renowned company needs a secretary with good secretarial skills. Preferred age 21+. Training on word processing given if necessary. £5,500 including very attractive benefits. Tel. 01-229 7954.

TEAM WORK IN SW11 Two lively spirits could be college leavers. Home based and general office services. For details contact: 01-229 7954.

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SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Permanent temporary. Agency 01 734 0655.

SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS. SALES oriented specialist to sell a very special language course to top executives. Tel. 01-229 7954.

EDUCATIONAL CAREERS AND RETRAINING. WANTED: highly qualified young person for English teacher (male) for 18 months. Tel. 01-229 7954.

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LEGAL NOTICES. In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. CAMBRIDGE, we are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. LONDON based Assurance Company Solicitor local enquiries for buy/sell/transfer of shares...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. COSTS DRAFTS PERSONS, 5 BUCKLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.1. Tel. 01-229 7954.

Legal Appointments

Taylor Woodrow Construction Group Solicitors or Barristers. The Group requires two graduate solicitors or barristers to join its busy Legal and Company Secretarial Department...

TAYLOR WOODROW

COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR CONVEYANCING SOLICITOR. Commencing salary within the approximate range of £14000 - £19000 p.a. incl.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD HEADQUARTERS. The Commercial Solicitor will deal with general commercial transactions including major contracts for the purchase of plant and equipment...

PRIVATE PRACTICE. CO COME. Well known practice, City, 1-2 years' exp. £12,000.

Personnel Appointments. Unusual opportunity with International Merchant Banking Organisation.

ALSO STEVENS BATESONS & CO. LIVERPOOL. COMPANY/COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS. As a result of continuing rapid expansion in our company/commercial department we have two vacancies...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. CAMBRIDGE, we are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters...

LINKLATERS & PAINES Commercial Property Lawyers. Linklaters & Paines are looking for young lawyers wishing to specialise in commercial property law.

LINKLATERS & PAINES

Leading Law Publishers SWEET & MAXWELL LTD, require an ASSISTANT GENERAL EDITOR Current Law.

SEIFERT SEDLEY & CO require CIVIL LITIGATION SOLICITOR. 2/3 years' qualification experience in this field essential.

INGLEDUE BOTTERELL ORCHE & PYBUS. Two Solicitors required for the following vacancies: 1. COMMERCIAL LITIGATION...

SOLICITORS. Large City firm has a number of vacancies for newly qualified solicitors or persons who are shortly about to qualify to work in commercial litigation department with a strong international bias.

SOLICITORS. Large City firm has a number of vacancies for newly qualified solicitors or persons who are shortly about to qualify to work in commercial litigation department with a strong international bias.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. CAMBRIDGE, we are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters...

TAYLOR WOODROW ENERGY GROUP Oil & Gas Exploration Commercial Lawyer. The Taylor Woodrow Energy Group requires a commercial lawyer with demonstrable experience within the oil industry...

TAYLOR WOODROW

THE LAW SOCIETY Continuing Education Officer £14,317 - £21,249 p.a.

RIGHTS MANAGER. The National Theatre requires a Rights Manager. This post covers a wide range of work on contracts involving the activities of the National Theatre...

CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPARTMENT Assistant Solicitor. Applications are invited for the above post in the Council's Legal Department.

EAST CORNWALL GROUP OF PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISIONS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT. CC/PAD POINTS 31/2 £8,373 to £10,941.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. CAMBRIDGE, we are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. CAMBRIDGE, we are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters...



لقدنا من الاصل

Legal Appointments

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£20,000 +

Successful trading company whose worldwide interests encompass shipping, insurance, property and commodities have identified the need for an in-house solicitor, experienced in the field of marine insurance, to be based in their London Headquarters in Park Lane.

The ideal applicant will probably be in his/her early thirties and be either an experienced solicitor or a barrister with a sound commercial background, seeking an interesting and demanding position often entailing extensive travel at short notice.

An attractive salary will be offered commensurate with the seniority and responsibility of the position.

To apply for the above, write or telephone to Reuter Simkin Ltd, 26-28 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852, quoting ref: CC/C.84.

Reuter Simkin

COMPANY COMMERCIAL

WEST END £9,500
Our client is a recently formed and expanding practice with a strong client base drawn mainly from the entertainment world.
To keep pace with expansion they now seek a young recently qualified solicitor with a thorough training, preferably having a commercial bias.
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Reuter Simkin

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Recently qualified with Civil Litigation experience required for general practice in Great Yarmouth. Salary negotiable.
Apply in confidence to: Mr R G Kilin, Messrs Kilin & Bruce, 16/17 South Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2RA.

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We have locums available in all areas to cover for short-term absences. We have a wide variety of locums available to suit your needs and from partner level to Legal Secretaries. We are happy to help you.

Gordon Rowe & Co. Solicitors
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ASA LAW
202 Bishopsgate, EC22
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THE AMERICAN COLLEGE IN PARIS is seeking now full-time solicitors for busy firm in its Division of International Business in the areas of Accounting Finance and Management Marketing. An understanding of corporate practice and ability to hold the 2/25 of each party's share is essential. Candidates should preferably have had practical experience in business. Salary and benefits are dependent upon qualifications and experience. Apply in confidence to: The American College in Paris, 10007 Paris, France.

SHEFFIELD. Leading City practice requires a recently qualified solicitor to assist in its Commercial Department. Salary £12,000 + and excellent prospects. Permanent Appointment. 01-242 1281/2.

COMMERCIAL/CONVEYANCING solicitor required for busy firm in London. Salary £12,000 + and excellent prospects. Permanent Appointment. 01-405 2651 Keating Law Employment.

Commercial Litigation

Bristows, Cooke & Carmael

Require two solicitors, preferably less than 2 years qualified, to join their expanding Intellectual Property Department. This large Department undertakes complex High Court Litigation for major international and domestic clients.

The ability to accept a high level of responsibility is required as is willingness to travel. A technical background would be an advantage. Excellent salary and conditions.

Reply with full C.V. to Ref:

G Bristows, Cooke & Carmael,
10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London
WC2A 3BP.

HARRIS ROSENBLATT & KRAMER

seek a recently qualified

SOLICITOR

to assist the Senior Partner and his minions in all aspects of non-contentious work. The successful applicant will be able to work without supervision and communicate with clients at all levels. Salary package according to age and experience and excellent prospects for the right person. Please write with CV to Harris Rosenblatt & Kramer, 26/28 Bedford Row London WC1R 4HE. Ref. CC.

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Five City Solicitors

Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche invites applications to fill five posts.

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A young solicitor, particularly with practical experience in the corporate and commercial taxation fields, to join a team dealing with all aspects of taxation including frequent foreign and international elements.

Company and Commercial

A recently admitted solicitor to join the corporate finance section in a department covering the whole range of corporate and commercial work. The demands of the practices in London and in Hong Kong are constantly expanding.

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Two recently admitted solicitors to work in the most international of our departments specialising in ship, aircraft and oil financing, international banking and currency transactions of all kinds. We seek young solicitors prepared for spells of work abroad in one of our three overseas offices or to travel overseas at short notice. A language or two would be a bonus.

Property Department

A solicitor with two to three years' qualification with experience of the property development sector, particularly on behalf of developers.

For each post we shall look for academic achievements, evidence of commitment and commercial flair, energy and independence, adaptability and a personality that will fit.

Apply in writing to
R. Staveley,
Kempson House, Camomile Street,
London EC3A 7AN

Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche

CORNWALL CIVIL LITIGATION

We are seeking an enthusiastic and able Solicitor to join our busy Cornish Law team at St Austell as soon as possible. Applicants should be keen to tackle a wide range of work within the department including advocacy in County Courts and Tribunals, but no matrimonial work is involved. A realistic salary will be paid.

Please apply in writing to:

MR IAN WAITE,
STEPHENS & SCOWN
ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL, PL25 4AX

SHIPPING AND BANKING

Sinclair Roche & Temperley have the following vacancies:-

1. A commercial/shipping litigation solicitor with approximately two years post qualification experience to assist a litigation partner with a variety of charterparty and other shipping litigation work.
2. An experienced or newly admitted solicitor or other suitably qualified person for collision, salvage and related admiralty work.
3. Two corporate/banking solicitors, newly admitted or up to three years qualified to specialise in ship finance, corporate and leasing work.

These are new positions. Related experience would be an advantage but is not essential and training will be given in these specialised commercial areas. Good academic qualifications are desirable. The work is varied, interesting and demanding. Some travel may be involved and an opportunity may arise to serve in Hong Kong or Singapore. Most of the work has an international aspect.

Please write personally in confidence with full curriculum vitae to:

Mr Ian Gauot,
SINCLAIR ROCHE & TEMPERLEY,
128-140 BISHOPSGATE,
LONDON EC2M 4JP

PENZANCE

Friendly medium sized firm require non-contentious clerk or recently admitted solicitor. Salary not less than £8,500 for right person. Telephone Penzance 4251 or write Vivian Thomas and Jarvis, 3a Alberton Street, Penzance.

SOLICITOR

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We are looking for an Assistant Solicitor with good post-qualification experience in conveyancing. The ideal applicant will be able to work independently with a minimum of supervision. The work is varied and includes residential, agricultural and landed estates conveyancing.

Please write with full C.V. to Mrs V. Farrants, Partnership Secretary,

McKenna & Co
WRECK HOUSE, 1 ALDWYCH LONDON, WC2R 0JF

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Old established 15 partner Lincoln's Inn firm with expanding commercial practice seeks a 3/5 year qualified Solicitor aged c.30 to take a position of responsibility in the Company/Commercial department, engaged in a wide variety of work. Top salary and excellent prospects for the right person.

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ASSISTANT SOLICITOR required for matrimonial work and some Commercial Law by busy and expanding firm with nine partners and four offices on Essex/Suffolk border. Salary to be agreed.

Apply in writing to:

M. G. Wilson, Thompson Smith & Puxon,
4 North Hill, Colchester, Essex CO1 1EB.

CONVEYANCING EXEC. CIV/ £12,000 +. Notable practice seeks suitably qualified person to handle own caseload within 124 hrs ann.

LITIGATION SOLICITOR 7.5 years post qual medium sized W1 solicitor. High Court work and good prospects. Lincs. Box 01-405 2651 Keating Law Employment.

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DOMESTIC CONVEY EXEC. Solicitor. Able experienced person sought by this go ahead practice. High potential. Applications 242 1281/24 hrs ann.

CENTRAL ENGLAND

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

£ EXCELLENT

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An opportunity exists for a solicitor of obvious partnership potential to join an expanding department handling complex commercial cases. Ideally under 30 he/she will have good experience of High Court litigation, will be prepared to work without supervision and be looking for a career with a leading practice.

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Specific terms and conditions are for discussion and will be attractive to those currently working in London. To apply for either of these vacancies send your Curriculum Vitae or telephone/write for an application form quoting Ref: RW/25 to Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Telephone 01-405 6852.

Reuter Simkin

CLYDE & CO. have a vacancy in their Guildford office for a

Young Solicitor for Commercial Litigation

They require a Solicitor, recently qualified or with up to three years' post-qualification experience, to conduct international insurance, shipping and transport cases, including advising on and handling disputes in this country and in many foreign jurisdictions, involving a wide variety of legal and commercial problems and travel abroad. Previous experience of substantial commercial litigation will be a distinct advantage. The rewards and prospects are excellent.

Candidates should apply in writing, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and quoting reference 2081 to Mrs. Indira Brown, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Telephone: 01-222 5555.

Corporate Resourcing Group

Management Consultants - Executive Search

Legal Adviser

International Computers Limited, Europe's leading computer and information technology company, requires a well-qualified barrister or solicitor to join the ICL Group's head office legal team based in Putney, London.

Applicants, preferably aged under 30, must have a good law degree and at least 3-4 years' experience in private practice or as an in-house lawyer.

The work of the ICL Group's legal team covers a broad range of company and commercial work including international commercial agreements, EEC law, competition law, employment law, joint ventures, acquisitions and disposals and the law of intellectual property. Candidates must have - or be able and willing rapidly to acquire - experience and expertise in all or most of these areas.

The key requirement is the ability to bring sound legal skills to bear on the activities of a complex international high technology business in a professional but practical fashion.

Salary within the range £12,000 to £15,000 will be dependent on qualifications and experience.

Please send details of qualifications and experience to John Llewellyn-Davies, Personnel Manager, International Computers Limited, ICL House, Putney, London SW15 1SW. Tel. 01-788 7272. Ext. 2666.

We should be talking to each other



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Major Property Company requires a Qualified Solicitor for its Legal Department located at its offices in London, W.1.

The successful applicant will report to the Group Lawyer and will be expected to take responsibility for a wide range of legal matters connected with commercial and industrial property in the United Kingdom. Some travel may be necessary.

Applicants must have had experience of commercial conveyancing either in private practice or in industry and be willing to accept considerable responsibility.

The salary is negotiable in the region of £15,000 per annum. The company has an excellent non-contributory Pension and Life Assurance Scheme and there will be four weeks annual holiday.

Please send full details of education and career to:

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STERLING GUARANTEE TRUST PLC,
4 Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AB.

Royal Air Force Legal Officers

A Selection Board will be held shortly to recruit officers for the RAF Legal Branch.

Applications are invited from barristers or solicitors aged between 26-32 who have experience in criminal and family law and in advocacy.

Successful candidates will be commissioned in the rank of Flight Lieutenant at a salary commencing at £10,453. Subject to satisfactory service, officers on a permanent commission will normally have a career to age 60 with time promotion to the rank of Wing Commander. Promotion beyond that rank is by selection.

Initially officers will serve in London but opportunities will occur

for service abroad on tours of duty for up to three years.

For further information and details of career prospects, write with comprehensive CV to: 09/LC/0 Air Vice-Marshal G.N. Forman, RAF, Director of Legal Services (RAF), (009/LC/02), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 9RY. Formal application must be made in the UK.



Property Lawyer

Slaughter and May wish to recruit a solicitor to work in their Property Department. The successful candidate will be expected to handle a wide range of property work varying from development projects to leasing and financing transactions. Whilst the person required is likely to have been admitted for two to three years, applications are invited from more recently qualified solicitors of exceptional ability.

Salary and benefits will be attractive and will take full account of age and experience.

Apply with full C.V. to:-

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HONG KONG

A leading Hong Kong Law Firm urgently requires a young solicitor (recently qualified) to join its busy and expanding Finance and Commercial Department specialising in shipping. Previous experience would be an advantage but is not essential as the successful applicant will need to prove an ability to learn quickly in a demanding professional environment. He or she will enjoy working as part of a young team, often under pressure, and be able to retain a sense of humour and composure at those times when circumstances reasonably dictate otherwise. Some travel within the region may be required. Salary and other terms of employment will be competitive.

Interviews will take place in London in December/January. Apply with full CV and telephone number to Box 2119 H The Times.

Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board

Industrial Relations in Local Government
SENIOR OFFICER - £10,194-£11,673

LACSAB, the Local Government Employers' Organisation, negotiates pay and conditions for some 2 1/2 million employees throughout the country.

We have a vacancy for a Senior Officer in the Personnel and Industrial Relations Advisory Team, to comment and advise on all aspects of industrial relations legislation as it affects local government.

A good knowledge of employment law is essential. Further details and application form (to be returned by Tuesday 20th December 1983) from Mrs Rita Wood, LACSAB, 41 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8NZ. Telephone: 01-235 6081, ext 234.

ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

c. £9,000

We are an independent plc with a turnover approaching £20 million and 1,350 employees. We manufacture a range of dinnerware and coffee mugs marketed worldwide under the Kilncraft brand.

The job involves the full range of company secretarial duties. Dealings with providers of equal. The provision of advice on a wide range of commercial law matters (Supervisors) of the Company's pension and insurance arrangements. There are good prospects of advancement to Company Secretary.

Candidates should have a good law degree and/or ACTS and at least two years commercial experience either in practice or with a bigger company.

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DEATHS. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth... Mrs. Joan...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. GALLERY POETS. W. H. AUDEN. A SPECIAL TRIBUTE.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS. BLADON LINES. THE MAGIC ISLANDS OF CORSICA AND CORFU.

RENTALS. CARLTON GARDENS, SW1. Most appealing fifth flr. Flat in a...

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BIRTHS. WALL - On December 1st, in Margaret Mary...

DEATHS. Mrs. Joan... Mrs. Mary...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE NURSING MEMORIAL TO KING EDWARD VI.

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